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Daily Report

Latin America

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Bolivarian Presidents Meet; Peru, Ecuador Discussed

Presidents Sign Cumana Declarations

PA0402034895 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 3 Feb 95 p 1-8

[Declarations issued at the summit of the Bolivarian presidents on the occasion of the bicentennial of the birth of Antonio Jose de Sucre, held in Cumana, Venezuela on 2-3 February]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Declaration

The Bolivarian presidents, gathered in Cumana, Venezuela, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the birth of the grand marshal of Ayacucho, wish to voice their deep concern over the grave situation prevailing at the Ecuadoran-Peruvian border and reaffirm to the Governments of Ecuador and Peru their request to immediately end hostilities.

They wish to renew their call on the Governments of Ecuador and Peru, for the sake of Bolivarian ideas and in compliance with the goals of Andean and regional integration, to reach a just and realistic solution to the conflict through peaceful means in order to settle controversies specified by international law.

They deplore the revival of the ghosts of war in these new times when historical antagonisms are being replaced by the principles of coexistence and integration.

Cumana, 2 February 1995.

Cumana Declaration

The presidents of the Republics of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Panama, meeting in Cumana, the birthplace of the illustrious hero of American independence Antonio Jose de Sucre, on the occasion of the bicentennial of his birth, have agreed on the following:

Declaration:

The meeting of the five presidents from Bolivarian countries, on a day as important as the bicentennial of the birth of a great man, who achieved definitive victory over colonialism in Ayacucho, reflects the ties created by history among our countries, which in the past united efforts to achieve political independence and today are trying to establish an increasingly more profound integration to achieve their economic development and social wellbeing.

The occasion was propitious to:

Emphasize the community of social, cultural, and historical values, fraternity of their peoples, and the hope that the integrationist commitment will be consolidated in the Bolivarian countries, and Latin America in general.

Proclaim the American essence of our peoples, who are part of a melting pot of races and cultures, and reaffirm the spirit of universal freedom and openmindedness to all of humanity's currents of thought.

Reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the consolidation of democracy in the region and to respect the ethical and cultural diversity, as the essential basis for peaceful coexistence, social justice, and the protection of human rights.

Reaffirm our adherence to the principles of freedom of self-determination of fellow nations, non-intervention, respect for human rights and dignity, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of fellow states, international agreements, and the peaceful solution to disputes.

Express a shared concern over the insidious effects of corruption on the community's moral standards, the democratic system, and social coexistence.

To strongly condemn terrorism as a systematic and deliberate form of human rights violation that affects the stability of the democratic system and the efforts to achieve economic development and social well-being.

To reaffirm our rejection of or drug trafficking and its effects, which destroy the health of the people, the integrity of the political system, and the future of our youth.

To recognize that our youth, who form the largest sector of the populations of all our Bolivarian nations, have been forced to live in complex times of uncertainty. This demands appropriate attention to education and development so as to ensure a safe and promising future.

To highlight the significant role the young citizens of our Bolivarian nations have in building a modern and just social order, just as that which the young hero Antonio Jose de Sucre, an example of benevolence, dedication, and sacrifice, tried to create in his time.

To underscore the special circumstances facing humanity, marked by fast-moving changes that demand a new order to ensure a more just and united society.

To recognize that solidarity and integration were the values that encouraged the liberators in their struggle and that the Amphictyonic Conference at Panama, summoned by American liberator Simon Bolivar, constitutes the most important event in the quest for understanding and comprehension among nations, just as the victory in the Battle of Ayacucho secured American independence.

In remembering the historic and undeniable legacy of Sucre and his undying actions in the struggle for American independence, the presidents underscored the fact that the celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of the Ayacucho field marshal is an appropriate occasion to reaffirm the spirit and the will of unity and solidarity among our people, as stated in the Ayacucho Statement of 9 December 1974.

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The reflection that such events inspire in the Bolivarian leaders, who are meeting in the presence of the memory of the hero that secured Hispanic America's independence, lead us to make the commitment to:

1. Continue efforts toward consolidating, strengthening, and expanding economic integration and political agreement that will lead to sustainable development, with special attention to social matters.

2. Strengthen the subregional integration process by updating and recharging current measures, with the conviction that integration is the best road toward a better tomorrow. That is the purpose of the Seventh Andean Presidential Conference, which was called for September of this year in Cuenca, Ecuador. The meeting, as stated by the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Statement of 23 January 1995, will study the new strategic plan, the Andean Integration System reforms, and the system's compatibility with different integration plans.

3. Announce the will of the Andean presidents to immediately initiate negotiations between member countries of the Cartagena Agreement and Mercosur [Common Market of the South] to form a free trade zone between both systems of integration.

4. Join efforts for world peace, social justice, solidarity of people, democracy, and liberty.

5. Promote the development of science and technology as instruments not only of reform and progress but of independence and self-sufficiency.

6. Strengthen ties between competent authorities of our countries in the struggle against the illegal use of drugs, illegal trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances, and money laundering and its consequences, taking into account the principle of shared responsibility.

7. Maintain a relentless struggle against corruption in all its forms, both inside the countries and at the international level.

8. Strengthen international cooperation aimed at a more effective struggle against all manifestations of terrorism.

9. Make a concerted effort to offer youths of our countries opportunities to receive education and training, inspired by the ethical vision of the Liberator.

10. Promote the teaching in each country of the Grand Marshal of Ayacucho Antonio Jose de Sucre's thinking, with the purpose of disseminating at all levels of education the integrationist thinking and civic willingness to uphold the Bolivarian ideals. Also, to promote, with the support of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and the Cartagena Agreement Board, the creation of the School of Integration in the Simon Bolivar Andean University, in tribute to the grand marshal of Ayacucho.

11. Support Panama's efforts to have UNESCO declare the place of the amphyictyonic meeting a patrimony of humankind.

12. Exhort the people of all regions of the world to strengthen the spirit of community of a democratic society, free of hate, xenophobia, racism, intolerance, and fanaticism.

13. Agree to invite the foreign minister of the Republic of Panama to participate as a permanent observer in the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers.

The presidents of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Panama agreed in noting that the pleasant initiative of the Venezuelan Government to convene this summit offers an opportunity to extol for our new generations the work of our heroes and guarantees that we will continue to work to offer our people a better future.

It is in this spirit that this declaration is signed in Cumana, first city of the continent and birthplace of Antonio Jose de Sucre, on 3 February 1995.

Ecuadoran President Opposes Withdrawal

PA0302133695 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen yesterday rejected in Venezuela Fujimori's request to demilitarize the area and pull back 8 km.

Duran-Ballen stated that he has issued precise instructions to his diplomats so military positions are only pulled back 1 km without any loss of territory.

The president reminded the international media that, whenever Ecuador pulls back, Peru always seizes Ecuadoran territory. Therefore, this will not happen this time and Ecuador will not forfeit its military positions.

The president emphasized that, as far as Ecuador is concerned, its position on the border has not changed over the years. He added that Ecuador has not advanced, but neither has it pulled back.

Duran-Ballen Views Conflict

PA0302134095 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Report by Guillermo Rodriguez at the summit of Bolivarian presidents in Cumana, Venezuela; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago, Caracol Network got in touch with Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen who confirmed he has information that Peruvian President Fujimori will not come to the summit. Duran-Ballen, meanwhile, confirmed he will stay until the end of the summit. I discussed with him the latest report from Brazil indicating that there is great expectation about an agreement being reached with the guarantor countries—Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and the United States—to bring about peace and coexistence in

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the border region between Peru and Ecuador. He said the following to Caracol Network:

[Begin Duran-Ballen recording] I accepted a cease-fire at least four days ago. We have been holding discussions for several days, and on each occasion Peru [words indistinct] various formulas. I learned that we have been close to agreeing on a text since yesterday, but I do not have information that this has been achieved at this time. [end recording]

This is what President Duran-Ballen told Caracol Network. Meanwhile, Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo confirmed that on 1 March, there will be a U.S. decision on the so-called certification of Colombia on the issue of the struggle against drugs.

[Begin recording] [Pardo] It is a bit premature, because this is a process that takes some time. This is a process through which Congress will receive an executive branch decision on 1 March and then review it. Therefore, the only thing we know right now is that there has been a statement by Ambassador Frechette saying he believes the certification process will be difficult this year. We hope that, on the basis of available information, as well as on the basis of the excellent results from Colombia's struggle against drug trafficking, this process will conclude in a positive manner.

[Rodriguez] Colombia does not accept intervention by any other nation in its domestic affairs, whether in its relations with Cuba or any other country, but is this true for its anti-narcotics policy?

[Pardo] Of course, we have a drug policy which we believe is the best one possible. It is firm and resolute, because we are convinced that this policy favors Colombia's national interests and not because it has been mandated by the United States or any other country. With the responsible and serious manner that the government has carried out its policy, I think we have achieved results that perhaps no other country has shown in the area of the struggle against drug trafficking. [end recording]

A few moments ago, President Samper again stated that Colombia has nothing to hide in terms of the issue of drugs and that no one can lecture us about this issue because the struggle has been direct, courageous, resolute, and open.

[Begin Samper recording] I do not think anyone has in-depth [words indistinct] the solution we have been implementing [words indistinct]. [end recording]

President Samper said it is urgent that Colombian society understand that the struggle against drugs and Colombia's foreign policy are decided by the government of the Republic of Colombia and not by any other country, no matter how important it may be. The Cumana summit is about to conclude with declarations [words indistinct], but the truth is that the absence of President Fujimori has been the highlight of the summit. His absence has indicated there is no possibility for a direct dialogue between the Peruvian and Ecuadoran presidents.

The presidents participating in the summit are preparing to return to their countries this afternoon with a declaration of principles condemning the war, calling for peace, and urgently demanding the integration of the Andean Pact, but without further achievements regarding the future of relations between Peru and Ecuador and, in general, all of Latin America.

Presidents Adopt Stand on Peru, Ecuador

PA0302152095 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1434 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a report from Cumana, Venezuela.

The Bolivarian presidents' meeting in Cumana today adopted a diplomatic position and avoided harshly condemning the armed conflict between Peru and Ecuador, spokesmen have reported.

The chiefs of state reportedly state in a complement to the Declaration of Cumana: We deplore a revival of the ghost of war in this new era, when historic antagonism is being replaced by principles of coexistence and integration.

The presidents of Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia, and the ambassador of Peru, representing the absent Alberto Fujimori, discussed the position to be adopted on the armed conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

Venezuelan sources have said the discussions were difficult, because Ecuador wanted a strong Bolivarian condemnation of Peru due to the attacks Ecuador claims have been made on its border posts.

Duran-Ballen Undecided on Cease-Fire

PA0302181795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1514 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cumana (Venezuela), 3 Feb (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen today told EFE that he has not yet made a decision regarding the cease-fire proposal sent by the Rio Protocol guarantor nations to Ecuador and Peru.

Some 30 minutes before the expiration of the 1500 GMT deadline set by negotiators from the four guarantor countries for the Ecuadoran and Peruvian heads of state to respond, Duran-Ballen spoke briefly with EFE as he left mass at Cumana Cathedral, saying he had not made a decision on the issue.

The Ecuadoran president added that he had not made a decision because his Peruvian counterpart Alberto Fujimoro "constantly changes his mind."

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Duran-Ballen added, nevertheless, that over the past two hours, which he spent attending events commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of Antonio Jose de Sucre, the liberator of the Andean nations, in the eastern Venezuelan city of Cumana, he was not aware of what was happening with the proposal. [passage omitted]

Samper Denies Failure of Summit

PA0302203495 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1946 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombian President Ernesto Samper said today that Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's absence from the Bolivarian Summit did not constitute a failure of the summit. The Andean Group has been bolstered by the Cumana Summit, which will enable us to again become the most advanced integration process in Latin America, Samper said during an impromptu news conference.

Duran-Ballen Departs for Quito

PA0302221995 Paris AFP in Spanish 2040 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cumana, Venezuela, 3 Feb (AFP)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen left for Quito at 1640 on a private flight after attending the summit of Bolivarian presidents in Cumana on Thursday, AFP reporters have confirmed.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori did not attend the event, which was held amid the continuing Peruvian-Ecuadoran border conflict.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas bade him farewell. Duran-Ballen had arrived in Cumana on Wednesday evening.

Guarantors Urged Not To End Peace Efforts

PA0302231295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2050 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cumana (Venezuela), 3 Feb (EFE)—The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela urged the countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol today not to suspend but to strengthen their peace efforts in the Ecuador-Peru conflict.

"In light of the increasing hostilities along the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border, we respectfully urge the guarantor countries of the Rio Protocol to increase their efforts to end the conflict," states the declaration by the four presidents attending the Bolivarian Summit in this city.

The guarantor countries of the Rio Protocol, signed by the two countries on 29 January 1942, include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States.

They also recommended that a technical commission be immediately sent to the Ecuadoran-Peruvian border to verify—at the scene of events—"the real situation there" and offered to contribute with the personnel required by the commission.

The brief declaration by the Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez De Lozada; Colombian President Ernesto Samper; Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares; and Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera was presented at the end of the military parade to honor the bicentennial of the birth of Marshal Antonio Jose De Sucre commemorated today in this city.

Guarantor States Continue Talks in Rio de Janeiro

Ecuador Source: 'Demilitarization' Only Obstacle

PY0302130495 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0348 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 3 Feb (EFE)—An Ecuadoran Government diplomatic source today told EFE that the area to be demilitarized and the procedures to make it effective are the only obstacles to a cease-fire agreement between Ecuador and Peru in the peace-seeking negotiations under way in Rio de Janeiro.

The source, a member of the Ecuadoran delegation who chose to remain anonymous, said: "The demilitarization problem is the only one the guarantor countries have been unable to solve."

The source explained that this is one of the four points of the new draft proposal issued by Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, and U.S. mediators.

The draft proposal is based on counterproposals to the previous proposal drafted by the guarantor countries that was rejected on 2 February by the Quito and Lima governments. It is being discussed in separate meetings.

Adjustments Proposed to Draft Agreement

PY0302211195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1956 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 3 Feb (EFE)—The Ecuadoran and Peruvian Governments have proposed new adjustments to the draft agreement approved early this morning. In Rio de Janeiro at 1730 (1930 GMT), their representatives are evaluating the current positions in order to reach an equilibrium between the proposals.

An Ecuadoran delegation source told EFE that "even though great progress has been made" there are still basic disagreements on the area that must be demilitarized and the moment when the guarantors must participate.

The Ecuadoran and Peruvian Governments are carrying out intense consultations on the draft agreement which is under consideration by Presidents Sixto Duran-Ballen of Ecuador and Alberto Fujimori of Peru.

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The representatives of the guarantor countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States) are also holding separate meetings in the same building.

Cardoso Talks to Duran-Ballen, Fujimori

PY0302230195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2113 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 3 Feb (EFE)—The peace talks between Ecuador and Peru with the mediation of the guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol were resumed today with the political will expressed by the presidents of the two countries to Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

Antonio Simoes, spokesman of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, disclosed that President Cardoso talked on the phone with Presidents Sixto Duran-Ballen of Ecuador and Alberto Fujimori of Peru calling on them to seek a reconciliation and that the two presidents expressed their "political will to do so."

"From that point the negotiations were resumed in Rio de Janeiro but it cannot be predicted how long they will last; they could go on until early morning on 4 February," said Simoes who refrained from saying whether the draft agreement for a cease-fire signed early today was rejected by both parties or by one of them.

The representatives of the guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States, have been meeting since 31 January in Rio de Janeiro.

Peruvian, Ecuadoran Objections Viewed

PY0402023095 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2341 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 3 Feb (EFE)—The objections made by the Ecuadoran and Peruvian Governments to the draft agreement for a cease-fire and the long time it is taking to find a point of equilibrium has cast an atmosphere of uncertainty on the results of the guarantor countries' mediation in the conflict.

The document under consideration by the two governments was agreed upon early on 3 February and sent to Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran Ballen and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori who, after consulting their advisers and high-ranking military commanders, suggested some changes to make it more specific.

The negotiations, whose conclusion is not foreseeable, are centered on the definition of the area that must be demilitarized and the guarantors' role in the process.

Concerned that this subject could jeopardize the four-point agreement, Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso phoned his colleagues Duran Ballen and Fujimori urging them not to become more radical in their positions.

Brazilian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Antonio Simoes reported that the two Andean presidents have expressed to Cardoso their "political willingness" to successfully conclude the negotiations as fast as possible.

Simoes said that after Cardoso's intervention, the guarantor countries' representatives decided to resume the talks to seek a rapprochement.

According to Simoes, there is no time limit for concluding the meetings in Rio de Janeiro, and they will probably be extended at least until dawn on 4 February.

Simoes did not mention whether the draft agreement for a cease-fire agreed upon before dawn on 3 February was rejected by both parties or by one of them.

The fourth day of negotiations for peace between Ecuador and Peru is characterized by an atmosphere of moderate optimism and a lot of secrecy by the guarantors and the countries involved in the conflict.

Visibly tired, the deputy ministers of the mediating countries, that is Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States, are attempting to reconcile the current positions of Ecuador and Peru to attain a balance in the proposals. In the halls, the deputy ministers admitted they are willing to remain here "as long as necessary."

They also preferred to abstain from commenting after the initial 72 hours during which time they had given both optimistic and pessimistic reports according to the progress or lack of progress in the negotiations.

The intervention of Cardoso, as president of the country hosting the talks, took place after nearly all the Latin American countries and even U.S. President Bill Clinton had made appeals to Ecuador and Peru.

The last session of talks on 3 February was suspended at 2130 Brazilian time (2330 GMT) with the intention of resuming them two hours later, confident that both Ecuador and Peru have the "political will" to stop the hostilities.

The subject that most hinders the cease-fire agreement reached between Ecuador and Peru here in Rio before dawn on 3 February and does not allow the finding of a solution, is the area that should be demilitarized and the manner in which it should be done.

The Ecuadoran delegation always warned of its government's insistence in its willingness to withdraw its troops from the area in dispute once a delegation of observers from the guarantor countries arrives there. However, the distance that the military troops should move and the process that should be followed to implement the demilitarization are still a source of disagreement between Ecuador and Peru.

A draft agreement discussed on 2 February and which EFE obtained, stressed that apparently there was no difficulty between the two countries on withdrawing their troops from the conflict area to a reasonable and

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prudent distance so as to avoid a resumption of the hostilities. Ecuador asked that that distance not be greater than 1 km although it agreed with Peru on the need for an immediate gradual and reciprocal withdrawal of tanks, armored vehicles, heavy artillery, ships and submarines from their garrisons and bases in their countries, under the observation of the guarantors.

Several disagreements between Ecuador and Peru turned up during the talks on the manner by which the demilitarization process should be carried out. Ecuador asked that the troops withdraw 1 km in order to avoid new confrontations that could affect the situation. It likewise asked that the military troops withdrawn from the area be replaced by civilian and police authorities from their respective countries.

These new authorities, according to Ecuador, should have the temporary support of the observers and guarantor countries for whatever time is necessary. Peru, however, proposed the immediate withdrawal of troops and the replacement of the military troops by observers from the guarantor countries. Furthermore, Peru insisted that the process should be carried out within a week, starting right after the effective cessation of hostilities.

Cease-Fire Talks Continue

PA0402134995 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0951 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 4 Feb (EFE)—Diplomatic sources have stated that the negotiations to achieve a cease-fire in the Ecuadoran-Peruvian conflict have taken on a degree of intensity given the communique issued early this morning by Quito's delegation in Rio de Janeiro.

The sources added that the terms of Ecuador's declaration caused uneasiness among Lima's delegates and created an atmosphere that has compelled the guarantors and the parties to continue the negotiations.

The session, which began on Friday [3 February] and is continuing today, Saturday, has been atypical given the absolute secrecy maintained by all of the delegates of the guarantor countries and the countries involved in the conflict, as well as by the length of their discussions.

The diplomats and their advisers started the session at approximately 1700 (1900 GMT) on Friday, with a 120-minute recess being called four hours later.

The contacts were resumed at 0500 local, and, a few minutes later, a Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman announced to the media that the Ecuadoran delegation would issue a communique.

The communique, read by Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba, reported new Peruvian artillery and Air Force attacks on Ecuadoran positions. Quito's delegation also stated its "deep concern about the delay in securing a definite cease-fire in the area of the military clashes" along the disputed Amazon border.

The Andean country's official note concluded: "The Ecuadoran delegation expects that the obstacles and difficulties encountered so far, which form a substantial part of the problem, will cease once and for all, thereby putting an end to the disruption of peace on the American continent and helping us move toward the goal of Latin American integration."

Within 15 minutes, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman notified reporters that the Peruvian delegation had drafted a reply to their colleagues' communique.

"Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce Vizcano explained that "I was surprised in particular because it talks about 'obstacles and difficulties' regarding... the critical part of the problem." [quotation marks as received]

Ponce, who received the Ecuadoran communique from one of his advisers with some portions highlighted, insisted that his country was the target of the attack. He added that the clashes are occurring in Peruvian territory, not Ecuadoran territory.

The Lima diplomat said his Andean neighbor has unleashed a "disinformation and publicity" campaign to cover up its "pessimism" over the peace process, adding that this contrasts the position of "absolute responsibility" assumed by his country and his delegation in Rio de Janeiro.

Once their declarations were issued, the parties involved in the conflict locked themselves in their respective rooms on the second floor of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's alternate headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. The groups that came out to the balconies have not reappeared since. The same holds true for the delegation advisers who visited the room in which local and international reporters have been awaiting a cease-fire agreement since Tuesday.

This has been the longest session in the talks, which began on 31 January under the mediation of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol guarantor countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States), which established a partial delimitation in 1942, according to the diplomatic source, it will not be suspended. [sentence as received]

The session was continuing at 0740, and, according to the diplomatic source, it will not be suspended.

Peru, Ecuador Agree to Observers

PA0402130095 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 4 Feb (EFE)—Ecuadoran and Peruvian delegates today agreed to appoint soldiers, politicians, and diplomats from the

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four guarantor countries to observe the demobilization and demilitarization process in the area in which the armed conflict is taking place. Sources close to the Ecuadoran delegation at the Rio de Janeiro peace talks said the sides have therefore overcome one of the main obstacles that has been preventing a formal cease-fire declaration.

The observers will include Argentines, Brazilians, Chileans, and North Americans, and they will travel to the war zone as soon as a cease-fire has been agreed upon. The presence of international observers in the area in which the armed conflict is taking place between Ecuador and Peru—namely, the Condor Mountain Range—had been demanded by Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen's administration. Peru, meanwhile, had opposed allowing third-party observers to enter the war zone once the two sides agreed on the exact time a cease-fire would go into effect.

It has not been reported whether the sides have yet settled their differences regarding the demobilization and demilitarization, or on the corresponding processes, the logistics of which have most hindered this peace process. Various diplomatic sources have agreed throughout the peace process that the demobilization and demilitarization issue has been the most complicated one for the representatives from the guarantor countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and United States) in their eagerness to reconcile the proposals and counterproposals from the two sides.

Ecuador has requested details on the distances over which the troops will have to pull back and the types of military units that will have to withdraw.

Peace Talks Recessed; Progress Reported

PA0402143895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1259 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 4 Feb (EFE)—The peace talks between Ecuador and Peru, under the mediation of the guarantor countries, were suspended today at 1045 (1245 GMT), after 22 hours of uninterrupted negotiations. They will resume at 1700.

Antonio Simoes, the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, confirmed that much progress was made and insisted that this is a slow-moving process that requires a great deal of patience to find a compromise between the positions of the two parties.

Official sources in Ecuador predicted that the Andean countries would agree today, Saturday, that military officers, politicians, and diplomats from the four guarantor countries will participate as observers in the area in which clashes are taking place.

Regarding this information, the spokesman for the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that "there is nothing official as yet," and added that because no definitive agreement has been signed, any statement in this regard would be premature.

Guarantors Submit New Proposal, Extend Stay

PY0402225595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2128 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 4 Feb (EFE)—The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has disclosed that the Ecuadoran and Peruvian Governments are assessing a new cease-fire proposal submitted for their consideration today by the guarantors mediating in the conflict between the two Andean countries.

The deputy foreign minister of Brazil, Sebastiao do Rego Barros, added that the Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, and U.S. mediators have decided to extend their stay in Rio de Janeiro until tomorrow to await an answer from Presidents Sixto Duran-Ballen and Alberto Fujimori.

The Brazilian representative said that the document containing a new formula was sent to Quito and Lima "between 0500 and 0600 Brasilia time" (0700 to 0800 GMT).

Do Rego Barros said that the two governments need time to study the peace-seeking proposal sent to them but added that one, which he avoided identifying, has asked for more time to submit an answer. The Brazilian representative said: "As we are receiving information that it is not a complete agreement, one of the two governments needs more time to assess the proposal."

The host deputy foreign minister said that the four guarantor countries in this conflict (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States) cannot say when they will receive answers from Quito and Lima. He commented, however, that in view of the new draft agreement reached by the deputy foreign ministers mediating in this peace-seeking process, they have decided to extend their stay in Rio de Janeiro.

On 31 January, the diplomats started a round of negotiations in Rio de Janeiro in an attempt to get Ecuador and Peru to officially announce a cease-fire in the armed conflict on the Amazon border.

Moreover, Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella left the guarantor group a few hours ago due to his mother's death which forced him to return to Buenos Aires.

Talks Postponed Until Peru, Ecuador Respond

PY0502003795 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2322 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Hernan Bau, EFE correspondent in Rio de Janeiro, by unidentified Radio Programas del Peru anchorman—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Anchorman] The guarantor countries have decided to submit a new proposal to Peru

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and Ecuador. This third proposal entails two steps: the first one, a cease-fire agreement and, the second one, the withdrawal of troops to their respective unequivocal territory.

This information was disclosed by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella.

We are now in contact with EFE correspondent in Rio de Janeiro Hernan Bau.

It is now 1813 [time as heard; 2313 GMT] in Peru, Hernan Bau.

[Hernan Bau] Good evening Alberto. It is 2120 [time as heard] in Rio de Janeiro. I can tell you that today, for the first time in the past five days, the representatives of the guarantor countries and the special Peruvian and Ecuadoran representatives have slowed down the pace of negotiations after more than 60 hours of tiring talks. All the representatives are very tired so they have decided to postpone a session that was very brief because Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella had a personal problem. His mother died and he had to leave for Buenos Aires. Moverover, the negotiations scenario has moved from the Brazilian Foreign Ministry in Rio de Janeiro to a few meters away from your radio station and to Quito because at dawn today the negotiators sent Peru and Ecuador a draft document containing a new cease-fire proposal which you have just mentioned. [passage omitted]

[Anchorman] Hernan, do you know if the deputy foreign ministers are meeting now?

[Bau] It was publicly announced 10 minutes ago that negotiations for today have ended and that they will be resumed tomorrow, Sunday.

[Anchorman] At what time?

[Bau] When, it is hoped, the Lima and Quito Governments will send their answer to the proposal submitted at dawn today. [passage omitted]

[Bau] [passage omitted] As I was telling you, things have changed today. The announcement that negotiations will end tomorrow in addition to the Peruvian and Ecuadoran deputy foreign ministers' decision to remain in Rio de Janeiro until tomorrow is an indication that we are on the countdown for a final document that, we hope, will be the initial framework for peace.

[Anchorman] Do you know at what time negotiations will be resumed?

[Bau] There doesn't seem to be an agreement. I was told it would be in the morning but it could be after noon because the guarantor countries, it seems, will hold a private meeting which they have called a working breakfast to assess the latest developments and return at approximately 1100 [1300 GMT] to await the arrival of the document, the answers of the Ecuadoran and Peruvian Governments at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry in Rio de Janeiro.

[Anchorman] Many thanks to EFE correspondent Hernan Bau.

Declaration on Peace Efforts Postponed

PA0502022795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0010 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro 4 Feb (EFE)—The guarantor countries in the Ecuadoran-Peruvian conflict have postponed for tomorrow, Sunday, an annonced declaration on the results of their efforts as mediators in the search for a cease-fire between the two Andean nations.

The arrival of new documents in Rio de Janeiro, documents "that must be analyzed," was mentioned as the reason for the postponement of the communique, Brazilian Deputy Foreign Minister Sebastiao do Rego Barros stated.

The diplomat said that the mediators from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States need "to work for several more hours" prior to delivering a final assessment on their peace effort.

The declaration will be delivered at 1500 (1700 GMT) on Sunday, Do Rego Barros noted.

The Brazilian deputy foreign minister explained that the guarantors received new documents that "must be analyzed."

The documents were reportedly on the stands of the Ecuadoran and Peruvian Governments with regard to a new draft agreement the guarantors from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States sent to them early today, Saturday.

Do Rego Barros said that the diplomats—who received the press informally at the room where they were holding the reconciliation meetings—will continue their work for "several more hours." [passage omitted]

Peruvian Official on Postponement

PA0502161095 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0625 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 5 Feb (EFE)—No agreement has been reached yet in the negotiations between Peru and Ecuador in Rio de Janeiro that are entering their sixth and hopefully last day to end the hostilities.

Representatives of the guarantor countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States) of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol who were holding talks in Rio de Janeiro on 4 February with delegates from the nations involved in the conflict postponed until today the publication of a declaration on their efforts to obtain a cease-fire agreement.

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The decision to postpone the announcement was made, because the guarantor countries received "new documents" that had to be analyzed before reaching conclusions according to Brazilian Deputy Foreign Minister Sebastiao do Rego Barros, one of the negotiators.

Do Rego Barros said the four guarantor countries will need "several more hours" before issuing a final report on their peace efforts, adding the declaration will be delivered today at 1500 Brazilian time (1700 GMT).

The "new documents" which, according to do Rego Barros, are now in hands of the mediators are apparently replies sent by the governments of Peru and Ecuador to the new draft agreement the guarantor countries sent to Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen early Saturday morning.

A few hours before announcing the postponement of the declaration, do Rego Barros said that the Peruvian and Ecuadoran Governments "need time" to study the proposal and that one of the countries, which he did not identify, had requested more time to reply."

Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce, who is participating in the negotiations in Rio, said in a statement for Lima's television channel four that his country has already approved the draft agreement proposed by the guarantor countries and that only Ecuador's acceptance was pending.

During a meeting Saturday with Peruvian media directors, President Fujimori said Peru has asked the guarantor countries of the Peace, Friendship, and Border Agreement signed on 29 January 1942, which demarcated the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border, to "enforce respect" for the protocol instead of acting as mediators in the conflict.

Fujimori told the newspaper and television directors he has urged the guarantor countries to "assume their responsibility within the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol." He added the conflict will be handled by the OAS foreign ministers if the peace negotiations taking place in Brazil fail but based on "an evaluation by the guarantor countries."

Meanwhile, former OAS Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Peruvian presidential candidate in the elections scheduled for 9 April 1995, said the OAS cannot intervene in the Peruvian-Ecuadoran conflict due to legal impediments.

Perez de Cuellar said that only the guarantor countries of the Rio Protocol can intervene to find a solution to the conflict and that the protocol must be respected.

"The OAS has been conducting a goodwill mission, but that does not mean it can participate in the peace talks, Perez de Cuellar said in reference to the efforts undertaken by OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria, from Colombia, to reconcile the positions of the two countries involved in the conflict.

Perez de Cuellar added the United Nations cannot intervene in the conflict either, because "countries only appeal to that organization in case of total war."

The current situation of tension, which has continued throughout a week of negotiations that began on 31 January, has Peruvians in suspense. While they support the Peruvian offensive against the "Ecuadoran invaders," they also want peace, which they claim was broken by their neighboring country.

The clashes between Peruvian and Ecuadoran troops continue in the are of the Cenepa River, along the Condor Mountain Range, where 78 km of the border have not been defined yet.

Guarantor Countries Issue Declaration

PY0502183595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1741 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 5 Feb (EFE)—The peace negotiations between Ecuador and Peru failed today in Rio de Janeiro after six days of uninterrupted negotiations with the mediation of the guarantor countries in the conflict.

The guarantor countries, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States issued a declaration emphasizing the disposition for dialogue but the impossibility of reaching a conciliation in the conflict.

Brazilian Deputy Foreign Minister Sebastiao do Rego Barros said that the guarantors maintain their will to cooperate in whatever is possible to prevent the worsening of the hostilities.

The guarantors said new channels for negotiations will be opened and refrained from talking about a failure.

Guarantor States Appeal to Ecuador, Peru

PY0502190295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1756 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 5 Feb (EFE)—The guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol today appealed to Ecuador and Peru to stop the fighting immediately "and to prevent any initiative that may be interpreted as threat or provocation."

The guarantors said the Rio de Janeiro round of negotiations is over and they hope "the conflict will be definitely resolved, conscious of the absolute urgency to prevent the loss of human life and to restore peace."

Peruvian Minister Discusses Talks

PY0502222295 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by Jesus Luis Calderon in Lima—live]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Calderon] Good afternoon, it is a pleasure to greet you. Peru is listening. I will not ask any questions. We only want to listen to you. What are the conclusions of the negotiations? Has any act been signed?

[Ponce] The guarantor countries just released to the media a declaration which is too long to read now because it is one and one half pages single-spaced. But I can summarize it for you. Naturally, the declaration begins by recalling that the guarantors called for the negotiations because they are the guarantor countries of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol. The communique expressly adds that the guarantors called for the talks in accordance with the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol. Their purpose was to assist the parties in overcoming the current crisis. Is your reception good?

[Calderon] Quite good, we are hearing you quite well.

[Ponce] I am talking from a cellular phone and these machines sometimes fail. I will plug it into a current to prevent an interruption.

[Calderon] Take all the time you need. Radio Programas has the privilege of first-hand information, an exclusive interview with our Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce. As soon as he plugs in his telephone, we will be in contact again. Go ahead.

[Ponce] I will continue. It is very important that the communique or declaration issued by the guarantor countries summarize the basic elements of the agreement which I negotiated with the Ecuadoran side, with Ecuadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Fernandez de Cordoba. This is very important because the national and international public can learn about the content of the clauses which Peru has been willing to sign and which, unfortunately, Ecuador has not yet decided to sign. I will read this point specifically. Within an atmosphere of good faith—excuse me, I am translating from the Portuguese—that was established after intense negotiations based on the proposals submitted by the two sides, it was possible for the parties with the participation of the guarantor countries to prepare a plan containing urgent measures to put an end to the current clashes and pointing out subsequent actions to find a lasting solution to this conflict. The plan considers on an immediate basis the commitment of a cease-fire, the separation of forces, the demoblization of troops, a process of total demilitarization in the conflict zone. It also considers talks between the parties to find a solution to the current impasse.

The plan also establishes that Ecuador and Peru accept with satisfaction the sending of a mission of observers who will assist the parties in the implementation of the cease-fire and its supervision, and may even be able to move to the conflict zone.

This is the summary made by the guarantor countries of this agreement which, as I said, Peru was willing to sign, and Ecuador on the contrary did not want to accept. This important declaration that was signed in the Itamaraty building continues saying....[pauses]

[Calderon] We are listening to Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce who has a draft plan to be signed by the representatives of Peru and Ecuador.

[Ponce] Continues saying that in compliance with the responsibilities derived from the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol, the guarantor countries commit their effort at the high foreign ministry level and through the direct involvement of their presidents to restore peace between the two brother nations. As a result of the Rio de Janeiro meeting, the guarantor countries will continue with their efforts in an active, permanent, and coordinated way to provide their cooperation to the parties of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol. It concludes by saying that it appeals to the parties to suspend the combat immediately and to prevent any initiative that may be interpreted as threat or provocation in order to insure an atmosphere of mutual confidence necessary for dialogue between the parties. The guarantor countries make a solemn appeal to the parties in the sense that the conflict be definitely resolved conscious of the absolute urgency to prevent the loss of human life and restore peace.

This is how the communique entitled Declaration of the Guarantor Countries of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol concludes.

[Calderon] The declaration of the guarantor countries was not signed by the Ecuadoran representative.

[Ponce] I did not sign it either. It is a declaration released by the guarantors.

[Calderon] There has been no clear agreement so far.

[Ponce] There is a draft agreement that is very clear. There is draft agreement on everything but so far Ecuador has not accepted it. It is being evaluated in the Ecuadoran National Security Council which has been meeting since yesterday and has not yet given an answer. Therefore, the guarantor representatives have run out of time because as you know the deputy foreign ministers cannot leave their capitals for one full week. This is why they said this phase of the talks has concluded but they are leaving the functioning of the mechanism—which is a guarantee and this is very important aspect—open to be able to overcome this conflict.

[Calderon] This is logical. The guarantor representatives issued a declaration which we heard from you and the country is listening. Your Ecuadoran counterpart did not sign it because the Ecuadoran National Security Council is still debating the draft agreement. I am making this simple so that the radio listeners can understand it. Now I have an EFE report which I will read and on which I would like you to comment. [passage omitted]

[Ponce] Well, you know as a reporter that the word failure is a term that is used a great deal in the art of

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international communications. Therefore, I see it in that context. The guarantors did not label the negotiations a failure. On the contrary they released, as you heard, the content of an already negotiated agreement which was not yet accepted by the Ecuadoran Government. I would not say that Ecuador will accept the agreement. Apparently, the government has not decided, and this is why it has not instructed its negotiator to sign it. I would not also say that from now on we will keep the same posture, it will depend on events. Naturally the function of diplomats has to adjust to reality but it seems to be hasty to label the Rio de Janeiro talks as a failure because the guarantors decided emphatically to keep their participation open which is the appropriate decision in accordance with the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. Look, as everyone knows, the OAS Permanent Council has already met, a resolution has been approved, and the operation of what is known as the Consultation Organization is possible as happened in the Paquisha conflict. [passage omitted]

[Calderon] The country has listened to your exclusive comments to Radio Programas. We will be alert to the return of our delegation. When are you returning?

[Ponce] That depends on plane reservations. I don't know whether we are returning tomorrow morning; we will probably return on 6 or 7 February. It will depend on the flights available, and I don't have the schedule.

[Calderon] I congratulate you and the delegation on the professionalism with which you have dealt with such a delicate issue in Rio de Janeiro with the guarantor representatives.

[Ponce] Thank you very much.

Ecuadoran Envoy Announces Talks in Brasilia

PY0502202995 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1906 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 5 Feb (EFE)—The Ecuadoran delegation in the negotitions for reaching a cease-fire between Ecuador and Peru today announced that the talks for a final agreement on the conflict between the two countries will continue in Brasilia.

"Ecuador does not relinquish its rights" said Ecuadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba in face of the decision made by the government of President Sixto Duran-Ballen to reject the proposal made by the mediators in the peace talks (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States).

Fernandez said that the representatives in the talks held in Rio de Janeiro, which concluded without an agreement, did everything possible to reach a cease-fire.

He said Ecuador maintains the suspension of military operations in the conflict zone, an Amazon region that was not demarcated by the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

The border agreement was signed in 1942 with the mediation of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States after a short war between the two countries in 1941.

Fernandez insisted that the draft agreement that was not accepted by his country, but accepted by Peru, was not in agreement with Ecuadoran territorial rights. Fernandez reiterated that despite this situation "we will continue the negotiations at the same level" and that "the proof of this is our permanence in Brazil."

A spokesman of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry confirmed that the talks will continue in Brasilia on a yet undetermined date. He added that the mediators will be the ambassadors of the guarantor countries of the 1942 protocol.

Fernandez also said that his presence in the talks to be held in Brasilia "was up to Peru."

On 4 February, Ecuador asked the deputy foreign ministers who acted as mediators for "more time" to give its answer to the latest draft agreement submitted by the guarantors.

Peruvian Negotiator Denies Talks in Brasilia

PA0502234895 Paris AFP in Spanish 2227 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 5 Feb (AFP)—Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce said on Sunday that the Rio de Janeiro conference on the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border conflict has ended and thus the topic should not be reopened [no corresponde reabrir el tema] in Brasilia as Ecuador demands.

The Peruvian deputy foreign minister, during talks with AFP, pointed out that "the end of the crisis now depends on Ecuador's reply to the proposal made by the Rio de Janeiro guarantor countries."

"No one has asked us to go to Brasilia," the diplomat stressed when asked by AFP, adding that "the Peruvian delegation will probably travel back to Lima on Varig's Monday flight."

The Ecuadoran Presidency had stated that negotiations "would continue Monday in Brasilia," after the guarantor countries ended the Rio conference and just before President Sixto Duran-Ballen boarded a plane to Brasilia.

"The meeting has ended here," Ponce stressed, adding that "the Ecuadorans are asking for territory that does not belong them and the conflict is taking place inside Peruvian territory."

Brazilian Sebastiao do Rego Barros, coordinator for the guarantor countries, had stated that "negotiations will continue in Brasilia," but without fixing a date or the topics to be discussed.

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Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba, secretary general of the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry, when asked about Peru's possible absence in the continued negotiations in Brasilia, replied that "if Peru does not go to Brasilia that will be its problem."

Ecuadoreans Fear Losing Amazon Access

PA0602020195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2315 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 5 Feb (EFE)—Ecuadoran representatives at the peace negotiations with Peru taking place in Rio de Janeiro, which ended today without a cease-fire agreement, spoke of the country's fear over a possible loss of access to the Amazon.

Ecuador has access to the Amazon via the Cenepa and Maranon Rivers. The Cenepa flows into the Maranon, which in turn flows into the Amazon.

A member of the Ecuadoran delegation in Rio de Janeiro told EFE that his country's government insists on reviewing the border with Peru in the Amazon region, because it cannot accept losing access to the great river. [passage omitted]

One of the Ecuadoran representatives to the Rio de Janeiro peace talks said his country's government considers the source of the Cenepa River to be "essential."

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Cuba

Foreign Ministry Reports Migration Pact 'Misrepresented'

PA0402170395 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1857 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 2 Feb (PL)—The Foreign Ministry today affirmed that organizations of Cuban-born individuals living in Miami have misrepresented press reports on alleged agreements allowing illegal immigrants to enter the United States.

In Havana, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Miguel Alfonso said false expectations have been raised with respect to the possibility that Cubans detained at U.S. military bases in Panama and Guantanamo may travel to American territory.

The misrepresentation seeks to have an effect on Miami's domestic politics and on counterrevolutionary groups, he explained.

Alfonso added that, according to the agreement signed last September by both countries, the only conditions under which these people can obtain U.S. visas are for strictly humanitarian reasons or if they return home. They need prior authorization from the Cuban Government and must apply for those visas in Havana.

Alfonso noted the Cuban Government is concerned about the large number of people detained at the Guantanamo Naval Base because they are close to areas in which the two countries have installed military equipment.

We have heard that one of the camps for these Cubans is only 800 meters from these sites, he stressed.

The spokesman also referred to the report on Cuba that special rapporteur Carl-Johan Groth recently submitted to the UN Commission on Human Rights, and he described its content as highly intrusive.

This document proposes specific modifications to the Cuban Constitution and other completely unacceptable things, Alfonso explained.

In conclusion, Alfonso announced that a third round of Cuban-Nicaraguan negotiations will be held soon to put an end to the dispute surrounding several buildings in Managua that house Cuban diplomatic and commercial offices.

Concerns Over Increase in Guantanamo Refugees Noted

FL0402025695 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] International news agencies are carrying reports on several Cuban issues: the evacuation of Cuban rafters from Panama to the Guantanamo Naval Base, the use of illegally occupied Cuban land as an immigration center, and the launch of a Miami radio campaign with rumors suggesting that all Cubans at Guantanamo will be able to travel to the United States very soon.

Cuban and U.S. interest in complying with the 9 September agreements was clear at the end of the third round of migration talks. The agreements established, among other things, that over 30,000 Cubans who used rafts to leave Cuba could only enter the United States if they took the appropriate legal action in Havana first. Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban parliament, made this clear upon returning from the talks:

[Begin Alarcon recording] Rafters have several options: return home and go through the same procedures as everyone else, stay in the camps indefinitely, or go to other countries. The United States is—as a courtesy to Cubans—trying to find other countries that will accept the rafters. Some will go to Spain, others to Venezuela. Both governments believe it necessary to decide in the exceptional cases, humanistically speaking, that it is inappropriate for minors, the elderly, and the sick to remain on military installations. [end recording]

The Cuban rafters' situation on the Guantanamo Naval Base is clearly becoming difficult, particularly with the transfer of a large group from Panama. A Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman recently told the press that Cuba is somewhat concerned about this issue, particularly since Guantanamo is surrounded by military devices [dispositivos] and, as Alarcon noted, was not meant to serve as an immigration center:

[Begin Alarcon recording] The naval base should not be there, and, being a base, it should not serve as an immigration center. The current U.S. Government is clearly sidestepping a 30-year-old policy. The United States is no longer automatically admitting any Cuban, as they did when they admitted everyone illegally in the past. [end recording]

Migration clearly is a domestic issue for the United States, which is committing everyone to finding a solution.

Guantanamo Base's 'Illegality' Subject of Conference

FL0302193595 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Report by correspondent Gladys Rubio; speakers identified by video caption; from the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guantanamo will host an international scientific conference which will deal with the issue of Guantanamo Naval Base's illegality. The conference will be held within the first six months of this year

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and is to be sponsored by the Cuban association of international law and the National Cuban Lawyers Union.

[Begin recording] [Rubio] According to specialists, Guantanamo Naval Base's indefinite lease contract signed in 1903 is not legal and has no judicial value. Here are some examples. The Platt Amendment, which authorized the United States to establish naval bases or coaling stations in Cuba, was imposed on Cuba's constitution in 1901 and the people who created the constitution lacked the authority to legislate issues regarding bilateral relations. Their mandate was only to create a constitution. Leases are of a temporary nature. The fact that the owner of something that is leased can not regain its possession is a judicial irrationality. There have been substantial changes to the circumstances in which the accord was adopted and now the base is being used for other purposes.

[Dr. Jose Peraza, of the National Cuban Lawyers Union] If these accords were valid—they are not—the fact that the base is being used for other purposes than as a naval base or coaling station would void the accord. The United States, by holding Cubans, Haitians, and people of other nationalities at the base, are utilizing the base for purposes which were not contemplated in the accord.

[Rubio] Well aware of the United States' objectives in Cuba and 14 years before the United States occupied what is today the Guantanamo Naval Base, Jose Marti anticipated this reasoning, which is still valid today. Here are excerpts of a letter Marti sent to his friend Gonzalo de Quesada dated 29 October 1889.

[Unidentified speaker] Once the United States enters Cuba who will be able to make them leave? Why should Cuba become something like an artificial nation created for strategic reasons, which is what would happen, instead of what it truly is—a sovereign nation?

[Rubio] A scientific conference which will deal with Guantanamo Naval Base's illegality, according to its organizers is an opportunity to prove to the world the legal, historic, political, and social problems which derive from the occupation of Cuban soil. [end recording]

Venezuelan Protests Over U.S. Blockade Cited

FL0402133095 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 95

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several regions in Cumana, Venezuela—site of the Bolivarian summit—have condemned the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Regional presidents gathered to celebrate (Antonio Jose Vesuvre)'s 100th birthday have issued an open letter on Latin America's moral obligation to the Republic of Cuba. It calls on the heads of state to demonstrate their political willingness to end the blockade, to denounce arrogant U.S. hegemony, and to highlight the Cuban people's greatness. Venezuela Workers League, General League, and Central Unica union representatives also condemned the blockade and called for Cuba's right to self-determination to be respected.

Lage Views World Economics Forum Participation

PA0302222495 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 95

[Interview with Vice President Carlos Lage on arrival in Havana on 1 February from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; by Barbara Betancur and unidentified journalists; from the "Evening Information Review"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lage] I think you know the nature of this forum, which has been meeting for several years. This meeting was the 25th. The forum has been gaining importance, witness the increasing number of participating countries, political and government leaders, and businesses from various countries. There were approximately 3,000 participants. It was a really interesting forum. There were simultaneous conferences, debates and interchanges. The forum offers the opportunity for bilateral exchanges between enterprises and government leaders.

This is the first time Cuba has been invited to this forum. I think our presence in the event was useful because of the information and knowledge we have gained. These interchanges always help. They serve to exchange ideas on the world's economic situation and allow us to listen to all opinions, including those with which we do not agree.

The forum was also an opportunity for Cuba to directly explain to the economic media and the media in general the measures we are adopting, how we are facing the situation we are enduring, and our opening to capital investments.

The forum also offered the opportunity to make contact with various enterprises and hold meetings with them. We took advantage of this opportunity. In addition to fulfilling the program on matters that are of interest to us, we held more than 15 meetings and made countless contacts and held talks.

I think the forum was useful and suitable. I think this has been an opportunity we have used well.

[Betancur] What reactions did Cuba's position elicit?

[Lage] Let's finish discussing what happened in Davos and then what happened in France. We spoke in a room that was full to capacity. Later there was a one-hour question-and-answer period. I tried to answer questions as briefly as possible to answer as many questions as possible. The time elapsed and there were still people who wanted to ask questions. This makes evident there was interest in Cuba's presence there. After the meeting

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we heard that, generally speaking, there were expressions of respect for the Cuban position, of interest on what is happening in Cuba, and something new: there was no talk about whether Cuba will be able or not to overcome its difficulties, but about what we stated in our speech, about how long it will take Cuba to overcome its difficulties. This is a qualitatively new situation Cuba has produced with its capability to resist because of its firmness and trust in the Revolution.

The general feeling I got out of this meeting and our talks with reporters—there was a news conference with more than 10 news organs—was one of respect, interest, and a growing view of the irrationality of the blockade.

This was not a political event. The blockade was not condemned, however, whenever the Cuba issue is analyzed, the blockade issue and the impact the blockade has had on our economy emerge. There is a growingly generalized opinion that this is an irrational situation.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct] To what do you attribute the [words indistinct] awarded Cuba?

[Lage] I think it has to do with this we have been discussing, that Cuba has demonstrated it can resist. It has resisted and it is building its own road without renouncing socialism, its ideas, or its achievement. It has to do with Cuba facing a new situation not just because of the vanishing of the socialist camp, something that was very negative for our development, but also because of the changes in the world's economy. Cuba, without renouncing its road, its identity, its objectives, or its history, is moving forward in the midst of huge difficulties, which we have not left behind yet and which we are still undergoing at this moment.

Canadian Donation Distributed in Ciego de Avila

FL0302125995 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2055 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples delegation delivered a donation from Canada to various centers in Ciego de Avila Province. The aid includes bathing trunks for students at the Julio Antonio Mella provincial swimming school, as well as clothing, toys, and other articles given to the Miraflores Nuevo Basic Cooperative Production Unit [UBPC], the Heroicas Guerrilleras child care center, and Mariana Grajales special school in Baragua. Community service workers in the capital city and members of the Santa Inez Basic UBPC of Majagua were also beneficiaries of the donation. (Helen LaRouche), member of the Canadian Solidarity with Cuba group, brought the donation to Cuba. In December of 1994, (LaRouche) delivered a similar donation to the fourth Pastors for Peace caravan.

Foreign Minister Departs Nepal for PRC

FL0402164195 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 4 Feb 95

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] PRENSA LATINA just reported that Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina is on his way to the PRC, following an official three-day visit to Nepal during which he met King Birenda Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Prime Minister Man Mohan Akhikari. Robaina told a news conference just hours before departing that relations between Kathmandu and Havana are special; that his visit to that country is part of an Asian tour that includes stops in Japan, the DPRK, and Thailand; and that his visit was aimed at promoting bilateral economic and political relations. Robaina is the highest ranking foreign official to visit this country since the Communist Party of Nepal/United Marxist and Leninist triumphed overwhelmingly in the November general election. Robaina revealed that he had extended invitations to personalities of this Asian country to travel to Cuba with the purpose of promoting trade relations between the two countries. Robaina will travel from Beijing to the Philippines, the final stop on his second tour through this area in less than a year.

Vice Foreign Minister Meets Kazakhstani Foreign Minister

FL0302163495 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 95

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Isabel Allende, who is on an official visit to Kazakhstan, has met with Kazakhstani Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev.

Foreign Investment Vice Minister Arrives in South Africa

FL0402133795 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 95

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Trevor Manuel, South African trade, industry, and tourism minister, met Noemi Benitez, Cuban foreign investment and economic cooperation vice minister, in Pretoria today. Cuban Ambassador Angel Dalmau and high-ranking South African Government officials also participated in the meeting. The officials discussed the development of trade relations between the two nations, as well as the possibility of expanding other relations that came with the establishment of diplomatic relations in May 1994. Benitez was stopping over in South Africa on the way to Malawi, where the Southern African Development League's consultative conference will be held.

Foreign Trade Minister Meets Slovak Delegation

FL0402133395 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Slovak Economy Minister Jan Ducky arrived in Cuba on 3 February at the head of a delegation of specialists and businessmen. Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and (Peter Zulovsky), Slovak commercial officer in Havana, welcomed the visitors. Ducky, who is accompanied by the Slovak National Bank governor, is working on a tight agenda: He will meet, among others, the Cuban foreign trade, foreign investment, basic industry, economy and planning, and finance and prices ministers. Foreign trade sources have said that it is expected that Ducky will sign several bilateral cooperation agreements tomorrow. Cuban and Slovak specialists prepared three agreements, one on the economy and trade and the others related to the health and culture sectors. Slovak delegates met Cabrisas three hours after they arrived. Ducky spoke to "NTV":

[Begin Ducky recording, in Slovak with simultaneous translation into Spanish] This is an opportune time for Slovakia and Cuba to reestablish the level of cooperation that existed between Cuba and the former CSFR. We share many common experiences in the development of our societies, and we should take advantage of this situation. [end recording]

Parliament Vice President Meets Angolan Officials

FL0402133595 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 95

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jaime Crombet, Cuban parliament vice president, has visited the headquarters of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola's Central Committee and spoken with Secretary General (Lopo Delasamento). Crombet also met National Assembly Chairman Franca van Dunem and Vice President Lazaro Dias and other legislators from that African nation. Crombet also discussed with Secretary of State for Cooperation (Joao Peloc) the good health, education, and construction relations between the two countries.

Armando Hart Meets With UK Delegation

FL0602031495 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart met with Baroness Young. Young stressed her interest in including this sector in her delegation's work plan. The delegation's objective is to strengthen economic and trade relations with Cuba. Young praised the Cuban arts, citing ballet, opera, and Art. Young also emphasized the possibilities of developing British tourism in this specialized field. Hart explained Cuba's strategy of binding culture with the economy and considered this meeting an important step toward strengthening bilateral relations. The British delegation later visited the Hermanos Almejeiras Hospital. Raul Gomez Cabrera, the hospital's director, gave a detailed briefing on Cuba's health care system, the mechanisms used by the hospital to become self-financed, and the services provided by the hospital. Gomez thanked Young for her support of Cuba in England's House of Lords. Young was very interested in learning about how Cuban authorities guarantee health services to the people despite Cuba's difficult economic situation.

Around midday, the British delegation visited Expo Cuba and visited several of the 33 pavilions that reflect the various sectors' economic activities. Young informed this reporter of sectors that are likely to receive English capital for joint ventures.

[Begin Young recording in English, with passage by passage translation into Spanish] Various. I think we have already identified several sectors where there are opportunities: the mining sector, for example. I have no doubt that there will be other sectors that will be open to joint enterprises. I hope that positive things result from this visit. [end recording]

Officials Celebrate Vietnamese Communist Party Anniversary

FL0402160495 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Vietnamese Communist Party's 65th anniversary was celebrated at Havana's Nico Lopez school on 3 February. Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, who is a Politburo member, and Vietnamese Ambassador to Cuba Le Duc Anh participated in the ceremony. Le Duc Anh noted that Ho Chi Minh not only founded the Vietnamese Communist Party on 3 February 1930 but also consolidated all of the SRV's patriotic and workers movements into one force and led them to battle and then on to victory. He pointed out that the Communist Party led the SRV to victory over French and U.S. imperialism. Nico Lopez Principal Raul Valdez Vigo drew parallels between the histories of the SRV and Cuba, two histories which coincided chronologically or in their political outcome despite geographic distance. Unity is one of the Vietnamese Communist Party's principle achievements: Vietnamese unity allows for significant social and economic improvement without renouncing socialism.

Argentine Senator Backs Strengthening Ties

PA0302140295 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2245 GMT 1 Feb 95

[By Javier Rodriguez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 1 Feb (PL)—Today, Argentine Senator Antonio Cafiero supported the strengthening of his country's commercial, financial, and

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political relations with Cuba and described as excellent the meeting he held in Havana with President Fidel Castro.

In remarks to PRENSA LATINA, shortly before returning to Buenos Aires, the former president of the ruling (Peronist) Justicialist Party voiced satisfaction over the five-day visit to this Antillean island as the guest of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

Cafiero said his objective was to learn of Cuba's situation and to explore ways to increase bilateral exchange, adding there are Argentine business sectors interested in participating in "the new horizon that is opening up" following the major economic transformations Cuba has undertaken.

Cafiero, who is also the former governor of Buenos Aires Province, held meetings with ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon, Ernesto Melendez, foreign investment and economic cooperation minister, acting Foreign Minister Jorge Bolanos, and other officials from various state and nongovernment organizations.

He also visited Cardinal Jaime Ortega, talked with people on the street and in shops, toured Old Havana, and went to Varadero. In sum, it was a real marathon worthy of a gold medal in the Pan-American Games, he joked.

Referring to his conversation with President Fidel Castro, he said they talked about Cuban-Argentine ties and Latin America's economic progression. Cafiero described his meeting with the head of state as extremely pleasant and meaningful.

We are going to make a serious effort in Argentina to persuade potential investors interested in participating in the Cuban opening up of the economy, and we have hopes regarding the first invitation to Cuban Government personalities to explain the details of this program, he said.

The Peronist leader added Argentine businessmen will visit Cuba afterward to determine the possibilities being offered to them. He then said that Argentina and Cuba "have always been sister nations, that nothing has separated them historically, the reason why this excellent relation will certainly continue in the future."

Cafiero also gave his personal opinion on Cuba's current economic course, based on the information he obtained directly during his visit.

I believe the reforms program is very interesting, because Cuba, he said, is trying to update and modernize its economic policy in line with the demands of the times. I feel this effort is a considerable and valuable one all Latin America and my country, especially, must know about.

After extolling the contributions the Antillean nation has made to Latin American art and the cultural ties between the two countries, the Argentine senator affirmed that all bilateral cooperation efforts fall within the search for regional integration.

Since the forties, Argentine Peronists have espoused the cause of Latin American integration and cultural ties, and we have been advocating it for a long time. We are now implementing it through Mercosur [Common Market of the South], but that point does not exclude other countries or zones in the region, he said.

Senator Cafiero said he received nothing but demonstrations of true appreciation from the Cuban people and authorities during his stay in Cuba, "and this point is something that heartens an Argentine."

Commentary Discusses Foreign Investment in Sugar Industry

FL0302125595 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 1 Feb 95

["Open Agenda" program with (first name indistinct) Cordero, first secretary of the Sugar Industry Workers Union, and host Antonio Resillez—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Resillez] I would like to broach an issue which I know is of interest to many viewers and also myself. Recently, Comrade Lage reiterated, and this time at an international economic gathering held in Switzerland, that all sectors of the Cuban economy are open to foreign investments. Of course, I can deduce that when he referred to all sectors, he is including the sugar sector. I would like to know your opinion? What have you heard from the sugar industry workers in connection with regard to this possibility of having foreign capital in the powerful Cuban agrarian and industrial sector—a possibility which in my humble opinion is very real and near at hand?

[Cordero] I have seen—at times it is hard because one is representing the sugar industry workers—the conditions and opinions expressed in their daily work. I am convinced that when the time comes, whenever the time comes, when the government approves foreign investments in sugarcane agriculture or the sugar industry, our workers will react positively. We have seen it in other sectors which have experienced this. We know of it, although not by direct experience, however, I am convinced the workers will understand why it is done at this time. I am convinced that they will endeavor to turn the decision into a success in the sugar industry sector.

[Resillez] A follow-up question: When this time, which you as well as I see as highly likely, arrives—the time when foreign capital will be present in the sugar industry and agriculture—do you believe the role of the Sugar Industry Workers Union will remain unchanged, as in the last 30 plus years?

[Cordero] I do not think so because there are many aspects which, independent of the foreign capital investment, we have to change to adapt to the situation, the circumstances. There are things that are unchanging and things that are vital.

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[Resillez] For example?

[Cordero] Well, we think that the treatment of the workers of the Basic Cooperative Production Units, for example, has to change somewhat because they have an administrative council, and the land in usufruct, and have certain revenues, and are socialist owners of the resources, and make their own decisions. We believe that once this happens we will have to naturally adapt to that situation while maintaining certain vital principles, which we have to preserve as logical.

Haiti

Michel Arrives in U.S., Seeks Support Assurances

FL0302125795 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Smarck Michel continues his world tour.

In Paris, Michel led a delegation to a meeting of Haiti's sponsors on 30 and 31 January.

In Washington, Michel met several high-ranking U.S. officials—including Vice President Al Gore—on 1 February. The prime minister told the Washington audience that he hopes that the international community will continue to support Haiti's reconstruction program. Clarence Renois reports:

[Begin recording] [Renois] The Haitian prime minister traveled from Paris to Washington, where he again asked the international community to help Haiti in its democratic revitalization and economic reconstruction processes. Michel is scheduled to meet several U.S. officials, including Vice President Al Gore, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, and Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

On 1 February, Michel assessed his first 100 days in office, noting a drop in violence and an increase in security. Although Michel repeated his concerns over disarmament efforts, he said that he feels that the atmosphere in Haiti is good enough to justify sending MINUHA [UN Mission in Haiti] forces. He also called on the Clinton administration to support his government's efforts.

[Michel, in Creole] The Clinton administration has provided tremendous supported since this administration took office. It provided some of its greatest support during our efforts to reach 15 October. We need to be reassured that that support will continue. As I said earlier, we will reach our destination together. These efforts will not only benefit us but also benefit them.

[Renois] Michel told VOA that elections will soon be held in Haiti, assuring that there is no danger that anyone will take over the coming elections. He also noted that legislative elections could be held as early as 28 April.

Michel raised the elections issue with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in Paris, as well. Michel and Juppe also discussed the new police academy and the fact that 40 French experts are currently in Haiti to help train Haitian policemen. Michel called on Haitians and the international community to remain calm while awaiting the graduation of this new generation of policemen.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department has issued a report on Haiti, confirming that political violence subsided after military officers departed and the multinational force arrived on 19 September. However, the report also notes an increase in crime, particularly around Port-au-Prince. [end recording]

More on Legislative Activities, Electoral Bill's Status

FL0402002295 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The number in the Senate has been reduced to nine, and the number to achieve a quorum reduced to six. The senators decided as such in a resolution adopted on 1 February, when considering whether the Senate should sit in regular session despite the departure of two-thirds of its members on 4 February.

The senators also modified some of the deputies' amendments to the electoral bill:

—Senators rejected the deputies' proposal that those members of the Catholic and Protestant clergy and of reformed cults who wish to run for office be forced to quit their ministries within one year of the election;

—Senators also rejected the deputies' proposal that presidential candidates be forced to produce a university diploma and that candidates for the Senate and Chamber of Deputies be forced to produce a high school diploma in order to run for office.

Ansy-Rose Resignac reports:

[Resignac] National Assembly President Firmin Jean-Louis made the announcement last week without elaborating. The Senate will hold regular sessions, even in the absence of two-thirds of its members. The senators' decision on 1 February to reduce the number in the Senate to nine and to reduce the number needed to achieve a quorum to six satisfied National Front for Change and Democracy leaders, who had suggested that the remaining senators assume all Senate duties in permanent sittings. Jean-Robert Martinez does not see any problem with this since the remaining senators represent each one of the country's nine geographic departments. [passage omitted]

Senators are pushing to vote on the electoral bill and on the national budget before 4 February, the date that deputies will end their four-year mandate. While the Senate vote on the budget may be a mere formality—senators and deputies have already met Finance Ministry officials in committee meetings—the electoral bill

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could be returned to the deputies in light of modifications that senators made to the deputies' amendments. [passage omitted]

Senators reviewed the deputies' work in the presence of Chamber of Deputies President Frantz Robert Monde and Deputy Frederic Cheron. The fact that senators reviewed the deputies' work in the presence of Monde and Cheron suggests to the senators the deputies' implicit agreement with their actions. It is not yet known whether the constitutional right to return the amendments to the deputies will be exercised. Meanwhile, the deputies continue to pack up.

Senate Confirms Bank Appointments

FL0402002495 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Senate has confirmed the following appointments to the National Bank of Credit's administrative board:

—Raoul Nelson, president;
—Gesner Comeau, vice president;
—Georges Sajous, director general;
—and Michel Saint-Firmin and Gerard Georges, members.

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U.S. Border Cooperation Plans Drafted

PA0502223795 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Feb 95 pp 1, 10

[Report by David Aponte—words in italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mexican Government will implement several measures to bolster migratory cooperation with the United States: The Mexican Government will guarantee security at border crossings and bridges; broaden Beta Group actions in Ciudad Juarez and Matamoros; control access to culverts that cross the border; fight the trafficking of illegal aliens throughout the country; and create a Special Supervisory Group [Grupo Especial de Supervision] along the southern border "to enforce laws" dealing with migration.

Foreign Relations Secretary Jose Angel Gurria stated: "Concerning the repatriation of undocumented Mexican migrants, while fully respecting their human rights, we shall facilitate their safe return across the border, as well as to airports and seaports without any intermediate stopovers, based on mutually agreed upon procedures."

As far as the anti-drug struggle is concerned, the Mexico City and Washington administrations will establish specialized teams from their respective Attorney General's Offices to exchange information and to coordinate efforts to bring *drug lords* to justice and freeze and seize assets earned from illegal activities, he said.

Gurria reiterated that there is absolutely no letter of intent between the Mexican and U.S. Governments concerning political issues linked to the financial negotiations—not even the issues of migration and drug trafficking.

In a 20-page document sent to the Senate Foreign Affairs Commission, Gurria listed achievements dealing with migration, border cooperation, and other topics on the bilateral agenda. He even noted that the Migration and Consular Affairs Group, which was established in 1987, will hold a working meeting in the city of Zacatecas.

Among future goals, he said, "One could specifically point out than in view of the need to boost cooperation between Mexico and the United States to jointly deal with the migration phenomenon, several Mexican federal offices, as well as the National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH), have designed an overall strategy intended not only to ensure respect for the human rights of migrant Mexican workers and to attend to their needs, but also to obtain better socioeconomic conditions in their places of origin, and thereby prevent the loss of an important segment of the Mexican labor force."

Through this program, the Mexican authorities are attempting to immediately meet the demands for protection and legal assistance of those Mexican citizens who live or travel to the United States. The authorities also are attempting to support aspiring immigrants who fail to receive legal status and are deported, Gurria added.

In an addendum, which he called *Actions To Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation*, he said bilateral projects should continue for the benefit of both nations. "Based on precedents and past achievements," Mexico City and Washington will enter a phase of exchanging proposals to enable binational working groups to discuss proposals and priorities of various aspects of the migration issue.

While summarizing the topics that will be discussed, the foreign secretary mentioned drafting federal programs to discourage emigration, adding that these will include "everything possible within the budgetary limitations of Mexico's economic program."

In addition, Mexican and U.S. officials will discuss topics dealing with combating all kinds of border crimes and violence; broadening Beta Group activities in Ciudad Juarez and Matamoros; improving operational security at border crossings and bridges by deploying additional personnel, improving equipment, and fencing off and controlling culverts that cross the border; increasing efforts by Mexico to prevent the trafficking of illegal aliens across the border; and establishing a systematic program of bilateral exchange of information on the trafficking of human beings.

The Mexican Government also will assume its pledge to fight the smuggling of illegal aliens in national territory by establishing a joint program among the Government, Foreign Relations, Finance and Public Credit, and Communications and Transportation Secretariats, as well as the Attorney General's Office.

Concerning another issue, Gurria said an additional goal will be to "maintain the strict implementation of our migration laws that defend the human rights of migrants in other countries."

He added, "For this purpose, we will strengthen our checkpoints along the northern and southern borders, and a Special Supervision Group will be established along the southern border to verify and support the implementation of our migration laws, as well as to protect the human rights of illegal aliens."

The head of Mexico's diplomacy also said the National Migration Institute will begin modernizing its operations to set up a routine communications channel with the INS in the United States. Referring to this, he said the Foreign Secretariat will appoint an attache in charge of migratory issues at Mexico's Embassy in Washington.

Regarding the repatriation of Mexicans, the government will seek mutually agreed upon procedures to facilitate their safe return across the border, "and, without stopovers, to airport and seaports" in national territory.

He added: "We recognize the sovereign right each of our nations has in implementing its own laws and regulations, and we will increase our efforts to protect the human rights of Mexican migrants in the United States."

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In his document, which was addressed to Senators Fernando Solana, Luis Felipe Bravo, Hector Sanchez, and German Sierra, the diplomat also outlined aspects dealing with cooperation in the area of drug trafficking and other proposals for bilateral review.

The Mexican Government is interested in upgrading interdiction strategies by improving intelligence services; increasing the air fleet to prevent the passage of large shipments; and establishing mechanisms to curb the illegal flow of weapons into its territory, he said. One of the goals will be to "struggle against the main drug trafficking organizations in the country. In the border region we will strengthen our cooperation with the relevant U.S. officials. For this, we will use our bilateral inter-institutional working groups."

Gurria added, "We also will establish special teams from the Attorney General's Offices to exchange information; coordinate efforts to prosecute the heads of these organizations; and freeze and confiscate assets derived from illegal activities on both sides of the border in strict compliance with each country's national laws and our bilateral accords, agreements, and treaties."

In the text, dated 31 January, the foreign secretary told the legislators: "The Mexican Government will soon sponsor an exchange of proposals regarding the bilateral agenda among the agencies of both nations. This will be done to share information concerning each government's goals and plans on issues dealing with bilateral relations. The government also will clearly reiterate to the U.S. Government the framework in which the Mexican Government will continue its efforts to increase bilateral cooperation."

Cooperation on Mexican-U.S. agenda issues will be "completely free of conditions," he added.

Business Officials Expect U.S. Pressure To Revise NAFTA

PA0402151695 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 2 Feb 95 p 18

[Report by Lourdes Gonzalez Perez]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. trade authorities attempted to "profit" from the Mexican crisis and proposed a "revision" of NAFTA, but Herminio Blanco Mendoza prevented this, according to private sector sources.

Members of the Coordinating Board for Foreign Trade Business Organizations (Coece) said the secretary of commerce and industrial development rejected any possibility of reopening discussion on the three-way North American trade agreement.

They added, however, that the Secofi [Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development] chief did offer to negotiate an accelerated lowering of tariffs on certain products within the terms specified under the pact itself.

Although new lists containing the proposals of each country have not yet been exchanged, internal consultations could start within a few months to determine the advisability of readjusting tariff reduction timetables [plazos de reapertura], according to the sources.

Under NAFTA, the businessmen insisted, relevant steps will be adopted if any one of the three partners intends to renegotiate the reduction of tariffs on certain products.

They admitted, however, that in light of the difficulties facing the country, it is virtually impossible for any of the sectors, even the commerce authorities, to dedicate time to consultations or negotiations to come up with new proposals. It will not be until after the domestic exchange and financial markets have stabilized that a new review will be made and counterproposals will be presented.

According to Coece members, Blanco Mendoza's reply to the U.S. proposal was that only those sectors whose businessmen agree to changes will be renegotiated. No sector—the commerce secretary said—will be revised without the consent of its representatives.

We should recall that consultations in 1994 yielded concrete proposals to accelerate the reduction of tariffs on certain products; however, in light of demands made by Mexicans and the unlikelihood of achieving their goal, the negotiations, specifically those with the United States, were put on hold.

Although no official report is available, private representatives assure that they have received calls from Washington to explore the possibility of establishing internal consultations to again come up with specific proposals that are in keeping with the current situation.

The business sector, the sources added, is certain that at this time there will be no new discussion of topics other than an acceleration of tariff reductions. They trust that the federal government will honor its promise that NAFTA will not be among the "items to be reviewed" as a consequence of the aid offered by the government of Bill Clinton.

They admitted that pressure from officials, legislators, businessmen, and leaders from various U.S. sectors to gain additional benefits will intensify as soon as the aid package for Mexico is announced.

They demanded that Mexican authorities are maintaining a firm position to avoid mistakes of the past that would entail even more sacrifices and damage on the national production plant.

Article Urges Investigation Into Financial Crisis

PA0302201095 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 1 Feb 95 p 1

[Article by Sergio Aguayo Quezada: "The Spectators and the Responsible"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] In these disconcerting and bitter times when the $50 billion that Clinton announced has provoked mixed feelings—annoyance over the dependency we acquired and the cost we will be paying and relief because the country will be able to overcome financial problems—would it serve any purpose to investigate and then proceed to try the officials in charge of the economic policy that led us to the devaluation and to a state of dependence?

There are commentators who cite values and reasons to forget and forgive these officials. They say that sterile acts of revenge would divide a pained country in need of unity. Some reinforce this argument by claiming that demands for political and/or criminal trials are not well-founded and have been made by a party, the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], which maintains a personal and visceral quarrel with Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

I think that public well-being would be benefited by an nonpartisan and unbiased [desadjetivada] investigation into the possible responsibility of, among others, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Pedro Aspe, Miguel Mancera Aguayo, and Jaime Jose Serra Puche. There is a generalized and not yet refuted belief that for electoral or personal reasons the peso was kept at an artificial value and this, compounded by a very bad handling of the devaluation in December, put the country on the edge of the abyss. Article 254, section 3, of the penal code specifies that public servants commit a crime when they publish "false, exaggerated, and tendentious news" that provoke "upheavals in the domestic market related to merchandise, money, securities, and commercial goods." Did the aforementioned officials commit this or other crimes?

These questions must be addressed. Opinion polls reflect a generalized feeling of irritation because, reflecting their arrogance, none of the alleged responsible officials has shown a willingness to give a detailed account of what transpired. The offensive contempt shown by former President Salinas stands out among them.

One of the most abominable Mexican traditions is to place persons who reach the presidency beyond the reach of justice. Diaz Ordaz publicly assumed responsibility for the massacre of students on 2 October 1968 and no judicial authority moved a finger. Echeverria and Lopez Portillo also committed the irresponsible act of maintaining the peso at an artificial value and this provoked the devaluations of 1976 and 1982. There were never investigations into whether they committed an irresponsible act.

Impunity has a dire effect on the citizens' morale and public ethics; it leads to cynicism and influences the contempt with which we view the system of management and enforcement of justice.

It is not easy to prosecute a country's ruler, either in Mexico or any other country. The matter evokes the Watergate case and some of the arguments used regarding the advisability of investigating Nixon. Some people said his punishment would have a divisive effect on the government and society. However, justice prevailed and Nixon resigned. Even though the immediate impact was brutal, the final result allowed reforms that revitalized the U.S. political system.

In Mexico the investigation of a possible responsibility would be an extremely clear message that we are finally moving toward a coexistence based on laws respected by all and applicable to all.

No one is asking for a people's court like the "Take It" show hosted by Paco Stanley, but certainly a careful and punctilious legal and political investigation conducted by current Attorney General Antonio Lozano Gracia. Given the magnitude and complexity of what is at stake, it would even be advisable for the attorney general to sponsor the creation of a special prosecutor's office, which would appoint an independent commission of specialists that would give validity to economic and financial aspects.

If the Attorney General's office, or the special prosecutor, or the hypothetical commission reach a conclusion and clearly prove none of the government officials published "false news" or participated in any other crime, the net profit would be the breaking of a taboo in the battle against the culture of impunity, which is one of the great national problems.

A last reason for conducting an investigation deals with the dignity and self-esteem that Mexicans should have. The announcement President Clinton made yesterday showed he is prepared to bet on our economy because that protects U.S. interests. His bet is big because he issued an open challenge to a picky Congress that, you can rest assured, will not remain silent. In other words, the drama between the President and the legislative branch in Washington has not ended.

A humiliating aspect is that we are mere observers of a debate in which our future is at stake. The U.S. people are not responsible for this; the largest quota of responsibility falls on the Mexicans.

Let us, at least, assume the responsibility of recovering our destiny and let us start by demanding precise information on what official adopted which decisions, when he did it, and why.

It is not a desire for vengeance; it is the imperative need to punish the guilty and protect the innocent.

Government Reaffirms Willingness To Talk With EZLN

PA0502053095 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0042 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 4 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government today reaffirmed its willingness to resume talks with the armed group operating in the southeast of Chiapas State and

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called on the group to resume negotiations directed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

In a communique issued by the Government Secretariat, the government called upon the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) to express its firm willingness to negotiate. It also called on the National Mediation Commission (Conai) to make its efforts to mediate in the dispute more effective.

The government entity stated that "peace is a national demand. The government and the majority of the country's population believe the current conditions and circumstances make it impossible to further postpone the resumption of the talks."

The communique said that the executive branch has maintained a clear, definitive, and open line since the beginning of the armed conflict in January 1994, which is: to attain just, dignified, and permanent peace in Chiapas through dialogue and negotiation.

On 1 January 1994, the EZLN launched an armed campaign demanding a solution to various problems affecting the Indian population and began talks with the government last March at the cathedral in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas State.

At the beginning of this week, the Government Secretariat made a first call to the Conai, which is led by Bishop Samuel Ruiz, to intensify the negotiation process. The talks have been at a standstill now for almost 11 months.

Government Secretary Esteban Moctezuma met with the leaders of the armed group for the first time on 15 January 1995 in the Lacandona jungle in an attempt to move forward with the negotiation process in search of a solution to the conflict.

The communique, which was released on Sunday [as received], said the solution must bring "a just peace that not only solves the source of the problems that caused the conflict but also does away with backward conditions and the lack of social investment."

The text adds that peace must also ensure the participation of the people of the Indian communities in the overall and sustainable development of Chiapas, with full respect for their traditions, culture, and system of social coexistence.

Regarding the military, the secretariat explains in its communique that the government has reaffirmed its decision to maintain the unilateral cease-fire stating that, even when under threat, its response has been to promote an atmosphere that reduces tension.

Within that context, the Government Secretariat said, the government has publicly reaffirmed its commitment on several occasions to seek a negotiated solution to the conflict and to resume direct talks with the EZLN as soon as possible.

Zedillo Urges EZLN To Resume Talks

PA0602061895 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0105 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexico City, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo today urged the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) to resume the dialogue to find a solution to the conflict that began on 1 January 1994 in the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas.

"From this rostrum, I urge the EZLN to openly, expressly, and decidedly take the political path to claim its demands," Zedillo said in a speech in Queretaro, 215 km north of the Mexican capital.

"I urge you to join the cause of peace and not to use the conflict to assume positions that do not contribute to democracy, justice, or a solution of the conflict," the Mexican president added.

"Mistrust is not a valid excuse to delay the dialogue," he said when inaugurating the ceremony to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the Mexican Constitution.

EZLN representatives declared an end to the government-sponsored dialogue, as well as to the EZLN's 8 December cease-fire commitment, following the swearing-in of Eduardo Robledo Rincon, who was elected governor of Chiapas. According to the EZLN, Robledo's ascension demonstrated the Zedillo administration's scant willingness to seek a political solution to the conflict that began on 1 January 1994.

In his speech, Zedillo reiterated the need for a national dialogue and said he would convene Congress to discuss a definitive solution to the conflict unless dialogue and negotiations with the Zapatist rebels is expedited.

"Those who compare the willingness for dialogue and the strengthening of the legislative branch with the weakening of the executive branch are completely mistaken," he said.

When referring to the multilateral financial support package for Mexico totaling nearly $51 billion, Zedillo denied there are secret conditions, such as claimed by a U.S. newspaper.

"I want to stress that nothing has been done, and nothing will be done behind the country's back, and that no secret commitments exist or will exist," the president said.

"With plenty of time and before the country formally accepts any commitment, the Congress will be able to verify that the support we will receive in no way affects the legitimate interests of Mexicans," the president said.

Likewise, he denied that the aid will add to the foreign debt, and said that this aid "will replace what today is a high-cost, short-term debt with a long-term debt at lower cost."

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On Friday, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL published a report that said within the financial package there exist "conditions that have not been made public and are much tougher"—conditions the Mexican Government "will have to satisfy" to obtain future loans. [passage omitted]

EZLN Leader Responds to Zedillo's Call

PA0602064295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 5 Feb (EFE)—The Zapatist guerrillas today stressed that the Mexican Government is the one that must meet basic demands for a dialogue to resume. In this way, the guerrillas responded to a call by President Ernesto Zedillo for a political solution to the conflict in Chiapas State.

Zedillo urged the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) "to openly, expressly, and decidedly take the political path to claim its demands and find an immediate solution to the Chiapas conflict."

In response, "Major Moises" of the EZLN stated in the Lacandona Jungle (southeast Mexico) that the government is the one that must send a signal of wanting a dialogue.

"The government clearly understands the agreement we reached. It is what we are demanding. They are the ones who must lay the basic groundwork for the dialogue," said Moises, one of the participants in a meeting with Government Secretary Esteban Moctezuma on 15 January.

Moises maintained that the EZLN "is willing" to hold a dialogue and that it has already proved this. He said that, at the meeting held in the Lacandona Jungle, "it was agreed that the government would show signs of willingness to begin the talks in a friendly manner."

"They were asked to show signs, and they know which signs they are," the EZLN leader said, recalling the demands that Chiapas Governor Eduardo Robledo resign, that the post-electoral conflicts in Tabasco and Veracruz be resolved, and, of course, that democracy be put in effect," Moises noted. [quotation marks as received]

In his call, Zedillo said that, "if the proposed paths do not prosper," he will convene Congress to a special period of sessions in order that, within the framework of a new relationship of co-responsibility, "it will help determine the best alternatives to resolve this conflict."

Conai Head Announces Intensification of Efforts

PA0502151195 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2107 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, 2 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The National Mediation Commission (Conai) announced today it will intensify its steps in favor of peace in the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas, in response to a government call in this regard.

Conai President Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia said this Thursday he will intensify his mediation efforts before the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) in order to expedite the search for a peaceful solution to the Chiapas conflict.

Conai members are holding constant meetings to discuss the most appropriate mechanisms in order to counter "a series of circumstances not favoring the conditions of calmness for the dialogue," Bishop Ruiz Garcia said.

After officiating a mass at La Candelaria Church in this community situated about 1,200 km southeast of the country's capital, the bishop said the communication has never stopped flowing between the government, the armed group, and Conai.

The Government Secretariat asked Conai on 1 February to intensify its mediation effort, 15 days after the first high-level meeting between the EZLN and the Mexican Government.

Government Secretary Esteban Moctezuma met in the Chiapas jungle last 15 January with Subcommander Marcos, EZLN military chief, following nearly 11 months of negotiation obstacles.

In a communique issued on 1 February, Mexican authorities said "it is a priority to maintain the initiative favoring a peaceful solution in Chiapas so that peace, justice, and dignity can reach all Chiapas residents."

Ruiz also affirmed Conai would have intensified its mediation effort even without the government's request, "but we will undertake this effort even harder now following the request by the Government Secretariat," he added.

The Chiapas prelate considered that none of the warring parties has rejected a political solution as "an important achievement," adding the parties favor a dialogue, because they have not opposed the existing truce.

Shortly before, during his homily, the bishop called on the believers to eliminate selfishness and to continue moving along the path of peace.

The EZLN rose up in arms on 1 January 1994, listing Indian demands. This armed group is maintaining an indefinite cease-fire, which the Mexican Army is also strictly observing.

Rebel Government in Chiapas To Resume Civil Disobedience

PA0402191195 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 31 Jan 95 p 14

[Report by Elio Henriquez]

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, 30 Jan—The Transition Government in Rebellion has

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announced the resumption of civil disobedience actions, because the federal government "has failed to send signals concerning the conditions to hold peace talks."

In a communique issued by the rebel government, it added the following: "The federal government has not wanted or has been unable to meet the conditions to hold talks, the Army has failed to returned to the agreed upon positions, all work in Chiapas municipalities has practically ground to a halt, and the post-election problems have not been resolved in the states of Veracruz, Tabasco, and Chiapas."

The communique stated that several members of the government met with members of the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (CCRI-EZLN), who agreed that "the federal government has failed to send signals concerning the conditions to hold peace talks in Chiapas."

However, the document also stated that the Zapatists said they continue to wait for the authorities to honor the commitments made during a meeting between the EZLN and the government on 15 January, "taking into account that the EZLN truce is indefinite, not infinite. We have the option of resuming civil disobedience and carrying out the plan of action agreed on at the Chiapas People's State Democratic Assembly.

"We believe that the time is up; that the patience of the Chiapas people has been exhausted; and that our decision for change, justice, and freedom must be completely carried out."

The communique, however, recommended that "all participants in civil disobedience unilaterally extend the truce until 5 February," because the third National Democratic Convention will be held on 3-5 February in Queretaro.

Finally, the document indicated the following: "It remains clear that the federal government is the one that has failed to show its political resolve to fully resolve the Chiapas conflict and that other direct or indirect protagonists have done everything within their reach to ensure that, at last, the people will be able to survive as they wait for peace with dignity, which we have been demanding in our state for one and one-half years."

Meanwhile, David Mendez Moreno, chancellor of the local dioceses, reported that Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia today went to Mexico City to meet with several members of the Conai [National Mediation Commission].

EZLN Lifts Roadblocks in 4 Chiapas Villages

PA0402195095 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0953 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, 3 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) has lifted four roadblocks it had set up in four villages in this southeastern Mexican state, local authorities reported today.

San Andres Larrainzar Mayor Diego Perez Hernandez announced that the EZLN withdrew the roadblocks it set up last weekend in the villages of Nachiton, El Pinar, La Tierra, and El Crucero in this municipality.

According to Perez Hernandez, the checkpoints went up 1 or 2 km from the town of San Andres Larrainzar to keep "drugs from entering" the municipalities of Simojovel, El Bosque, Bochil, where the EZLN is present. The EZLN, which emerged on 1 January 1994 to demand compliance with Indian demands and the abrogation of NAFTA, abstained from explaining why it had put up the roadblocks.

In a communique issued on Thursday [2 February], the EZLN proposed to the Democratic National Convention (CND), made up of intellectuals and social and peasant leaders, that the CND recognize the EZLN as a national political force. The EZLN also proposed to the CND, which was created last August to promote democracy and attain peace in Chiapas, that it seek in its third session, which begins today, the creation of a "broad opposition" called the "National Liberation Movement." According to the EZLN, this movement must be headed by the CND and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, the center-left opposition leader who was the Party of the Democratic Revolution's [PRD] presidential candidate in last August's general elections.

The EZLN, which has maintained a virtual truce with the government since January 1994, did not comment on Thursday's announcement by the independent National Mediation Commission (Conai) that it will intensify its efforts to enable the peace talks to resume. The Conai announcement came in response to the call by the government of President Ernesto Zedillo, which was installed in December, for a second meeting between the EZLN and the Government Secretariat following the first one held on 15 January.

In San Cristobal de las Casas, 1,200 km southeast of Mexico City, state opposition leader Amado Avendano announced he would suspend his civil disobedience action if a second peace dialogue is held.

"We would be willing to suspend our civil disobedience in order to attain peace in Chiapas," Avendano, the former PRD candidate for governor, said concerning the action that is expected to begin next Monday. Avendano is promoting civil disobedience to bring about the resignation of Governor Eduardo Robledo Rincon, because Avedano feels the latter won August's state elections through fraud.

Oscar Lopez Velarde, senator for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), stated that the Legislative Commission for Dialogue and Reconciliation in Chiapas is drafting an agenda that seeks to encourage a "positive dialogue" between the EZLN and the government.

In the town of Tapachula, Governor Robledo Rincon urged all of the state's political forces to create the

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conditions and means that will allow talks with the EZLN to yield results that benefit the region.

Robledo Rincon reiterated his confidence that peace in the state will be attained through a direct dialogue "without excluding anybody. Therefore, let us avoid acts of provocation, violence, and confrontation."

PRD Senator Interviewed on Attack

PA0502214295 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with PRD Senator Heberto Castillo in Mexico City by an unidentified reporter at the Radio ACIR Studios; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Reporter] As we reported earlier, Senator Heberto Castillo was the target of an attack. He escaped unharmed from an attack on the evening of 2 February, when two unidentified individuals fired on his vehicle in which his wife was also riding. The PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] revealed this publicly on 3 February. Is Engineer Castillo on the line? Eng. Castillo, a very good afternoon to you. We thank you for answering our call at this time.

[Castillo] Good afternoon, and thank you for calling.

[Reporter] Engineer, we are worried about and want to voice our solidarity with you in light of this situation, which in every respect is regrettable. We want you to give us an account.

[Castillo] Thank you very much for calling. The situation facing the country is very worrisome. I think that incidents like this one must be condemned, because days ago Emilio Pacheco and Cristina [not further identified] were also attacked. I am very puzzled by this, because the aim of this attack was definitely not simply to intimidate me. The shot fired at my car was aimed at the level of our heads. In other words, the attack was intended to cause harm.

[Reporter] Were you driving the vehicle when it came under fire?

[Castillo] Yes, I was driving and was accompanied by my wife. The vehicle from which I am sure the shot came from—at least the bullet that hit my vehicle—was waiting for us, because it was parked outside the exit of the Loreto Plaza parking lot. Two people were in the front seat. When we passed in front of the vehicle, they shouted at us, and when I turned around I felt the bullet strike the car. Of course, I sped up and I drove away, and they did not follow me.

In the past, I have been followed and harassed, but fortunately on this occasion, they did not chase me. I do not know whether they thought they had caused some harm. I realized it had not been a rock that hit the vehicle once I arrived home, but that it was indeed a bullet, which experts have said is either a .38 or .39-caliber. They also said the shot was definitely intended to cause harm—that is, to wound or kill.

[Reporter] Eng. Castillo, do you remember the face or physical features of the assailants or their vehicle?

[Castillo] Unfortunately, I cannot even describe what they looked like, because it was dark and I could only distinguish two silhouettes. My wife heard voices. When we got home she said she only knew we had been hit by a rock, but it was not a rock but a bullet. I did not even see whether the vehicle was bearing a license plate.

I believe this incident was linked to a previous attack—a traffic incident about one month ago. I was waiting for a green light across from the Senate Building at El Caballito, No. 10 Reforma Avenue, when another vehicle intentionally sideswiped mine. The three people inside it waited for me to exit my vehicle, but I, of course, paid no attention to them and drove off. This campaign has escalated. This is indeed worrisome, because it is evident that someone wants to hurt me.

[Reporter] That is precisely what I wanted to ask you, Engineer, if I may: What is happening?

[Castillo] I think that there is a group of people, from the darkest forces, who want to immerse Mexico in a wave of repression or authoritarianism. They are staunch enemies of agreements, because I am participating in a legislative commission that is trying to help resolve the problem in Chiapas. I am also participating in a Senate effort to promote talks among senators and deputies of the parties represented at the Congress. We have made progress; there are ongoing contacts; and, apparently, this bothers those who do not want changes in the country.

[Reporter] Sen. Heberto Castillo, have the demons been let loose?

[Castillo] I do not know whether they are demons, but I do know the most obscure and irrational people are indeed desperate, because I think they realize that the forces that cannot be defeated by violence are the forces of reason. I am urging people, despite these attacks and schemes, to oppose violence. I urge them not to succumb to this temptation, regardless of the results the attackers may obtain. In Mexico, we must find a way to resolve our problems, the most difficult ones, in a rational way by discussing them and through peaceful means.

[Reporter] Engineer, do you plan to take steps to protect yourself?

[Castillo] No, I have told my friends that I have no regrets. The only protection I need is to sleep calmly. I prefer to sleep calmly and walk the streets, just as I have done until now—alone and with no other protection than the goodwill of the people who surround me.

[Reporter] Eng. Castillo, do you plan to file a report with the Government Secretariat?

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[Castillo] Party President Porfirio Munoz Ledo has done that already. He met with the government secretary. President Ernesto Zedillo and the government secretary called me—and I appreciate their gesture—to offer me guarantees, and to say that if I needed any protection, I could count on it. Nevertheless, I think the only protection those of us who are involved in the political struggle need is the strength of our convictions. We must try to convince the people, specifically those who disagree with our ideas, that the only way to advance is to struggle with ideas, and that the strongest weapons known to humanity are reason and ideas. I will continue to use these. Although they might continue to oppose me, I will never reply to aggression with weapons. As often as I can, I will always respond with ideas and arguments. My dearest hope is that Mexico will follow this same path.

[Reporter] That is the hope of all of us. On behalf of the ACIR Group, I again want to voice our concern and solidarity, as well as to condemn, along with you, these acts of violence that in no way help the country's situation.

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El Salvador

Workers Reject Government Economic Plan

PA0502161295 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Report by Julian Melendez from the "Up-to-Date" newscast—passages within quotations are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Demonstrations to reject the government plan were not long in coming. Members of the Social and Popular Coalition this morning organized a large march that went from the flower clock to the Presidency [five-second break in reception] and requested the modification of the economic measures.

The march was attended by approximately 7,000 organized workers who peacefully demanded that the government modify the economic plan that will be implemented for the globalization of the economy:

[First unidentified speaker] "We reject the government's economic plan, because it only favors a sector of the economy that is closely linked with the financial system, services, and trade."

The workers believe the government is forgetting its constitutional duty to render the most basic services to society. These services may be lost with the privatization process and the modernization of the state structure according to the demonstrators:

[Second unidentified speaker] "We reject the privatization of Antel [National Telecommunication Administration], ANDA [National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers], and all the other public services that are basic and essential for the Salvadoran people.

[Unidentified reporter] "The plan announced by the government no longer mentions an increase in the VAT [value-added tax]. What about this issue?

[Third unidentified speaker] "That is positive for us. We believe it has heeded the people on this issue, because it would otherwise immediately and abruptly provoke reactions of nonconformity and violence."

All the observations and modifications to the official plan were delivered to the presidential house, where they were received by a government representative, because the president of the Republic is out of the country:

[Third unidentified speaker] "It was a cordial and frank meeting. We will meet with the president and the economic committee next week; that is what we were told. Likewise, we insisted on the importance of having the government heed the labor groups, the social movement, the popular movement."

Upon arrival at the government's headquarters, the workers found a cordon of National Civilian Police members that was ready for any incident. Fortunately, there were no incidents this time. The demonstration was peaceful and organized for a change and ended with a rally at the Civic Square.

Guatemala

President Aims For 'Absolute' Respect for Human Rights

PA0302204695 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2127 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala City, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio is confident that full respect for human rights will be attained before turning over power in January 1996.

With this in mind, De Leon today swore in Vicente Arranz Sanz as president of the Presidential Commission for the Coordination of Human Rights Affairs (COPREDEH), thus replacing Jorge Cabrera.

Arranz cooperated with De Leon when he was human rights ombudsman. During the news conference the president stressed that the appointment seeks to heighten respect to individual and collective guarantees.

De Leon announced that his goal is to attain "absolute" respect for human rights. With this in mind he will increase the coordination with the UN Mission for Guatemala (Minugua) and will strengthen the institutions that safeguard these rights in the country.

Minugua was installed in Guatemala in November to verify compliance of the Overall Agreement of Human Rights and Immediate International Verification signed by the government and the guerrillas, and guarantees the "objectivity" of De Leon's administration.

The president agreed with 1994 reports on human rights by the ombudsman and the U.S. State Department because they show that although the number of reports increased, the percentage of cases admitted for investigation decreased, he highlighted.

He explained, for example, that out of 13,339 cases registered by the human rights ombudsman in 1993, 16 percent were admitted for investigation, while out of the 14,156 reports in 1994, 14 percent were admitted.

The U.S. Government report highlights the government's achievements regarding consolidation of the democratic process and the legal state and this "gives us satisfaction," the president commented.

De Leon agrees with the U.S. State Department that the armed conflict that continues in Guatemala is the main cause of human rights violations.

He announced that the possibility is being studied to travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend the UN Human Rights Commission and present the progress made by his administration.

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De Leon Views Church's Withdrawal From ASC

PA0502191295 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2015 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala City, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio said today the withdrawal of the Catholic Church from the Civilian Society Assembly [ASC] will not adversely affect the peace process the government and the guerrillas are undertaking.

De Leon expressed regret at a news conference, however, that the Guatemalan Bishops Conference (CEG) withdrew Bishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruno from the forum, because he believes the bishop has been "a major bastion in the peace process."

The church withdrew Quezada, who was the ASC president, because it considered the bishop had already fulfilled his mission. The chief of state agreed with the CEG and said the decision was "prudent and wise," because there is no reason for Quezada to return to his pastoral mission after having fulfilled the task assigned to him. [sentence as received]

De Leon was pleased with the works done by the bishop as he headed the ASC and also agreed with the Catholic Church that it cannot lend itself to the "political game" that emerged due to the "long impasse" in the peace talks. "We understand the reasons (for Quezada's withdrawal), and we are also pleased the church will continue participating in the peace process," the president said.

According to De Leon, the Catholic Church as well as the evangelical churches have a great mission ahead of them to reconcile the Guatemalan family, "which violence has fractured."

The Guatemalan president said Quezada's departure will not have any adverse effect on the negotiations. Francisco Villagran, a member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), agreed with President De Leon.

The head of state recognized, however, that the ASC, in which most groups are represented, except businessmen, will "feel the effects of" the withdrawal of the Catholic Church from this forum.

Moreover, the president also said his government is waiting for the United Nations to convene a meeting to resume talks with the guerrillas.

He said he accepted the proposal UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding made during his visit and expects the URNG to accept it too.

Nicaragua

3 National Directorate Members Resign from FSLN

PA0302194595 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1749 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Managua, 3 Feb (DPA)—Commanders Luis Carrion and Dora Maria Tellez, and Deputy Mirna Cunningham, all members of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), today publicly announced their resignations from that party.

In a statement read to the media by Tellez, they said the current FSLN leadership "has betrayed the dreams and ideals that motivated an entire generation" of Sandinists for more than 20 years.

With these resignations, the Sandinist Directorate that was elected in May has been reduced from 15 to 12 members.

Panama

Poll: Perez Balladares' Popularity Drops 16 Percent

PA0502201395 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 2 Feb 95 p A-1

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest poll conducted by Cid/Gallup for EL PANAMA AMERICA, President Ernesto Perez Balladares' popularity has dropped 16 points.

The nationwide poll was conducted between 13-21 January, a period during which 1,200 Panamanians were interviewed.

A previous poll conducted at the beginning of President Perez Balladares' administration gave the president a 58-percent popularity level, which has now dropped to 42 percent.

Cid/Gallup believes the unnecessary purchase of a presidential helicopter could have motivated the drop in support for the president.

Two-thirds of all people interviewed believe the government should not have purchased the helicopter, which is valued at over $5 million.

Perez Balladares received, however, a greater number of favorable opinions than his main presidential opponents in last May's elections.

Regarding the political preferences of those interviewed, First Lady Dora Boyd de Perez Balladares received 81 percent of favorable opinions; the President received 74 percent, his support having dropped from an 81-percent rating in 1994; Balbina Herrera registered 66 percent; Ruben Blades maintained 56 percent, similar to his popularity last year; and Mireya Moscoso attained 45 percent in favorable opinions, 4 percent more than in a previous poll.

Former President Guillermo Endara achieved a 44-percent preference, although he had reached 51 percent preference in 1994. The poll also registered preferences for Guillermo Chapman, 44 percent, Vice President Tomas Altamirano Duque, 28 percent, Mitchel Doens, 21 percent, and Olmedo Miranda with 20 percent.

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Cid/Gallup found that eight months after the elections, the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] is the favorite party among Panamanians, although its percentage support has dropped since September.

The PRD previously registered a 40-percent preference. It now registers 36 percent although in first place; Molirena's [National Liberal Republican Movement] popularity rose from 4 percent to 12 percent. The Arnulfist Party also showed an increase in popularity from 7 percent to 12 percent. The Papa Egoro Movement also showed an increase in its popularity, from 7 percent to 9 percent. The Christian Democratic Party captured five percent of the favorable opinion of those interviewed.

The poll showed, however, that 21 percent of the people have no preference for any of the existing political parties.

Cid/Gallup also stated that more than half of all Panamanians believe the current administration is "less corrupt" than that of the Endara administration. In addition, five out of every 10 citizens approve of the work done by President Perez Balladares.

Association Demands ARI Board Defend Integrity of Law

PA0502142195 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 95 p A-17

[Report by Edith Castillo Duarte]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE) demanded yesterday, 3 February, that the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) Board of Directors assume its historic responsibility by defending the integrity of the law that created this organization and that it denounce any abuse of authority the ARI chairman may commit.

"We demand that the Board of Directors, the top authority within the ARI, assume its historic responsibility for which it was created, and we are urging it to defend the integrity of Law No. 5 and describe as an abuse of authority all those actions the ARI chairman carried out without previously consulting the Board of Directors," the APEDE communique stated.

The businessmen recalled past actions by the executive branch involving ARI administrative matters that prompted the resignation of its first administrator, the reason why it is amazed "similar situations are being allowed today, situations which could culminate in the possible departure of the second administrator."

One of the amendments the executive has proposed to the ARI law revokes the appointment of the current administrator, the reason why the Board of Directors must submit as soon as possible a slate of three candidates from which the president will choose the new administrator.

For that reason, APEDE has asked the ARI Board of Directors to reject any attempt to weaken the integrity of that institution, while strongly opposing the attempt to amend the law that created that organization.

The business executives felt it is impossible to assess the evolution and execution of an organization if it has no spine, which would be in this case the General Plan for Developing the Interoceanic Region and the General Plan for Using, Conserving, and Developing the Canal Area. Developing reverted areas depends on these plans, the businessmen warned and recalled the contract with the company that must draft these plans still needs to be approved by the Executive Branch.

The communique stated that the government must provide its full cooperation to the ARI so it can fulfill its objectives, as established in Law No. 5, and that the current management has not been allowed to perform its function.

President Ernesto Perez Balladares and the ARI administrator were embroiled last week in a serious public dispute over their differing views on the amendments to the ARI Law the Legislative Assembly is to debate per instructions by the executive during the special sessions.

Acting APEDE President Felipe Rodriguez said these differences hurt the country's image and send negative signals to investors who want to develop projects in the reverted areas.

Envoy: Human Rights of Colombian Inmates Violated

PA0502145795 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Feb 95 p E-14

[Report by Arnulfo Barroso W. and Aquilino Ortega Luna]

[FBIS Translated Text] Alfonso Araujo Cotes, Colombian ambassador to Panama, said yesterday the human rights of Colombian inmates are violated in Panamanian jails.

The statements by the Colombian official were made after a meeting with Attorney General Jose Antonio Sossa that dealt with Colombian inmates who have cases pending.

Some of the Colombians under detention in Panamanian jails are victims of unfairness, including delayed rulings and violations of their human rights according to the diplomat.

"There are Colombians under arrest without justification and whose cases are handled slowly, a situation making us conclude that serious overcrowding places them in an inhumane situation," he said.

This situation, the ambassador said, demands that the Panamanian state resolve the problem through its organizations.

"We need to find a way to make more humane the situation of the 170 Colombians who are detained in Panamanian jails," Araujo Cotes said, adding the

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transfer of the first 35 Colombians who had served 50 percent of their sentence has already been accomplished.

Editorial Laments Transfer of Rafters to Guantanamo

PA0402174495 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Feb 95 p A4

[Editorial: "The Cuban Rafters' Disappointment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As had been announced, the large-scale transfer of Cuban rafters from Empire Range along the banks of the Panama Canal to Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba has begun. The transfer is being conducted against the will of the rafters, who, when they decided to set sail, believed they would somehow reach U.S. territory.

The transfer also is taking place despite the protests by the Catholic Church headed by Monsignor Jose Dimas Cedeno and the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, whose Chairman Osvaldo Velasquez has repeatedly stated that the case of the Cubans has turned into an attack on the most fundamental human rights.

Our country's government had signed a bilateral agreement with the United States, allowing Cuban rafters to stay at the Empire Range military base for six months. The transfer that is now under way clearly fulfills the agreement the U.S. Government signed.

Nevertheless, it is an outright failure for U.S. foreign policy in the face of the migration agreements with Cuba. Nobody can deny that the United States systematically conducted propaganda campaigns encouraging Cuban citizens to leave the island. Since the dispute erupted between the two countries, such an event became the most desired objective of U.S. leaders.

This encouragement prompted Cubans to use the most unbelievable means to leave their country. Suddenly, U.S. politics became frightened by the thousands of Cubans trying to leave their country and come to the United States. Anarchy practically ensued. Leaving Cuba, which had turned into a U.S. objective, caused very delicate immigration problems for that powerful nation. In the face of the droves crossing the Florida Straits, which turned into a mass grave for many Cubans, there was no other alternative but to halt the unusual exodus.

The United States was obviously incapable of housing the more than 30,000 Cubans who left the island. Not even the agreement that the United States and Cuba continue to discuss has been able to resolve the problem. The rafters housed at Guantanamo, as well as those in Panama, have had to withstand inhuman conditions during their stay in those two concentration camps. What is taking place is no more or less than the transfer from one concentration camp to another.

Such is the sad fate of our Cuban brothers. Moreover, their uncertain future is even more serious. The more than 7,000 Cubans to be transferred will increase overcrowding problems there. Something will have to be done to ease the anguish of the more than 30,000 human beings who obviously took a wrong step, trusting a government that encouraged them to leave but later abandoned them to an uncertain fate.

The Cuban problem will have no solution as long as U.S. policy does not decide to lift the cruel embargo it maintains over 10 million human beings. What is happening denotes the failure of that absurd policy.

Those who have had the opportunity to visit Cuba have been able to notice major changes taking place in the system. Its leaders have taken a more flexible stance without undermining their dignity. We are certain that once the embargo is lifted the changes the whole world is calling for in Cuba will take place.

The misfortune of the Cuban rafters must serve as impetus to reconsider a failed U.S. foreign policy. It is also necessary to note the lack of solidarity by the continent for the hardships of the Cuban brothers. This should have been the redeeming formula. We are bidding the rafters farewell.

We are in solidarity with their misfortune and urge international organizations to support their terribly lamentable plight. We cannot, by the same token, fail to state our profound sorrow for the way in which every Cuban has been put on an airplane to be flown back to the island. They all look like prisoners of war or highly dangerous criminals.

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Argentina

Menem: Peruvian, Ecuadoran Stances 'Difficult To Overcome'

PY0402032495 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1827 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (NA)—On 3 February, President Carlos Menem announced that he will ask U.S. President Bill Clinton to participate more actively in the peace negotiations which are currently being held to try to solve the armed conflict between Peru and Ecuador in the area of the Condor Mountain Range.

He also announced that he will hold talks with his Peruvian and Ecuadoran counterparts, Alberto Fujimori and Sixto Duran-Ballen respectively, to try to reconcile their differences, which he conceded, "are very difficult to overcome."

Following a meeting with an Ecuadoran diplomatic delegation this morning, Menem told Radio "La 9.90" that he had pledged to talk with the presidents of the warring nations.

"Perhaps I will also have to talk to the President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton, so that he can participate more actively in the endeavors to settle the conflict," he said.

He justified his possible request to his counterpart in the White House by pointing out "the great weight the United States carries" and his capacity as president of one of the guarantor countries of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Border Demarcation that Peru and Ecuador signed in the City of Rio de Janeiro in 1942.

Menem added: "I think he may play an important role in preventing further bloodshed."

Commenting on the new round of telephone conversations he had with Fujimori and Duran-Ballen, Menem acknowledged that it is difficult to reconcile their differences. He said: "I think it is difficult to crack their positions." He substantiated his claim "based on the four times" he has spoken with both presidents on the phone "from the very moment the conflict broke out."

This notwithstanding, in his concluding remarks, Menem once again called upon the parties to declare a cease-fire in the area where the hostilities are occurring "so as to discuss the points that could provide a definite answer to this armed conflict."

Ecuadoran Diplomat Explains Situation to Menem

PY0402030995 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2046 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (EFE)—On 3 February, former Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes explained to Argentine President Carlos Menem why "Ecuador is in the right" in its position on the armed conflict with Peru.

During his interview with the Argentine head of state, Paredes reiterated his country's willingness to hold "negotiations with Peru" to try to put an end to the hostilities between both countries, which broke out on 26 January.

He asserted that Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen wants the conflict to be settled through dialogue.

During a news conference held following this meeting at the Ecuadoran Embassy in Buenos Aires, Paredes stated that "the only prospect of a settlement" of the dispute between Ecuador and Peru is "an unconditional cease-fire" on the part of Peruvian forces.

Paredes said that his government is "most grateful to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States for the role" they play " in their capacity as guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol signed between Peru and Ecuador on 29 January 1942 because they are "striving for peace."

He emphasized that "guarantors' situation and responsibility is indisputable and irreplaceable since their task is the key to achieve peace."

Paredes pointed out that his country "is open to whatever contributes to reconciliation and dialogue with Peru." He nonetheless made it clear that "it goes without saying that we cannot accept Peru demanding as a prerequisite for the cease-fire that we lose what is fundamental, what is essential for the negotiation."

The Ecuadoran diplomat contended that his government "does not want a worsening of the conflict in the least." Nevertheless, he added that "a country cannot live without dignity and we cannot accept that the demilitarization of the area demarcated by co-ordinates, as Peru proposes, should be a prerequisite for a cease-fire."

"If one translates the position of the co-ordinates into facts one can see that they are requesting that Ecuador pull its detachments out of an area where they have been for 20 years, and that is not the correct approach to a negotiation," he added.

He moreover asserted that "there are no Ecuadoran helicopters engaged in battle," and explained that "on 9 January, a Peruvian patrol comprising four men entered the Ecuadoran area under conflict. They were detected and taken to the Ecuadoran area, where they were handed over to their country's authorities."

"Two days later, a group of 11 soldiers entered the same region and this time, our forces—complying with existing orders—gave the challenge and the response they obtained was that the Peruvians opened fire," he added.

Paredes said that the Ecuadoran troops "countered with more shots, which made the Peruvians disband and they got lost since they were not acquainted with the terrain."

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"The Peruvian military authorities asked for permission to look for them and the Ecuadorans agreed and cooperated in the search. This is, therefore, clear evidence that we were attacked," he underlined.

During the news conference, Paredes was accompanied by Jorge Lara, another former Ecuadoran Foreign Minister; Julio Correa Paredes, the Ecuadoran ambassador to Argentina; Deputy Fernando Rovero, from the Ecuadoran Roldosista Party, an opposition party; and Francisco Perez, the director of EL UNIVERSO newspaper.

Menem Urges Fujimori, Duran-Ballen To Stop Conflict

PY0402025395 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0152 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Carilo, 3 Feb (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem tonight talked on the phone with his Peruvian and Ecuadoran counterparts, Presidents Alberto Fujimori and Sixto Duran-Ballen respectively, to evaluate the possibility of establishing a demilitarized zone between the two countries.

Government sources told TELAM that Menem called on Fujimori and Duran-Ballen to stop the military conflict between the two countries and to "prevent more deaths" in a phone call he made from Carilo [Mar del Plata resort] after attending a charity concert.

Mexican Bailout Received With 'Moderate Optimism'

PY0302125695 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2358 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (NA)—The news that the U.S. Government will send financial aid to Mexico was received with moderate optimism by Economy Ministry officials and economists, who underscored the need for "adjustments" to the Convertibility Plan to definitely overcome the "Tequila Effect."

Pundits interpret the decision by the Clinton administration as a measure to alleviate the crisis which, after hitting Mexico, engulfed all Latin American markets.

Nevertheless, they insist on the need for the government to solve all the problems that existed prior to the eruption of the Mexican crisis, particularly those relating to the public accounts deficit.

Planning Secretary Juan Llach believes the decision by the United States to bail Mexico out will "help emerging countries in general, and those in Latin America in particular."

Llach said the loan will prompt a "very significant change in the short term as it provides Mexico with a prop, enabling it to solve its problems and move ahead with the reforms it is undertaking. It also served as a prop for the markets."

Llach indicated that "in the medium term," the measures adopted by Clinton "confirm the U.S. strategic interest in—slowly but surely—achieving economic integration in the western hemisphere."

Buenos Aires Stock Exchange President Julio Macchi has said the aid package for Mexico will enable Argentina "to put things in order with greater calmness, and tackle pending matters."

Macchi said the bailout by the United States "will prompt expectations among stockbrokers at home and abroad." He predicted that the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange will continue its bullish trend which began two days ago.

He described the U.S. loan as "a cold compress on this feverish financial world in which we live." He suggest that "euphoria should not be given the upper hand."

Former Finance Secretary Juan Alemann believes the reverberations of the Mexican crisis "will continue for some time, as things will not return to normal overnight."

He stressed that the economic team "must do its homework" if it is to weather the turbulence triggered off by the so-called "Tequila Effect." He suggested "solving the public accounts deficit problem."

While indicating that "it is logical to expect a rally on the stock exchange," Alemann pointed out that "this would imply that the domestic market should recover its liquidity and that the Central Bank should regain its lost foreign exchange." [passage omitted]

Cavallo Concedes Inflow of Capital May Be Delayed

PY0402164695 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2037 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (NA)—On 2 February, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo conceded that it may take up to two years before investors realize that "Argentina has a strong, robust system that can withstand this type of turbulence reasonably well," thus alluding to the crisis unleashed by the Mexican debacle.

He trusted that "we will get more direct investments and there will be people who will get enthused about export and production businesses in Argentina."

He nonetheless warned that "perhaps the benefit will not be perceived this year, but I am convinced that in 1996 and 1997, there will be many people" willing to invest in Argentina.

Cavallo forecast that by then investors will say: "Look how well Argentina weathered the effects of the Mexican crisis," and will therefore be "more willing to make long-term investments in our country."

Changing the subject, the economy minister said that there are "too many banks" in Argentina's financial

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system. He made it clear, however, that this does not mean that "they should close their doors on account of bankruptcy, but rather that they should be absorbed or merge with other banks."

Roque Maccarone, the secretary for banks, insurance, and finances, had already commented on the mammoth banking system in Argentina by noting that if only 100 banks—of the 200 currently operating—survive there will be enough competition.

Cavallo, speaking on the radio, promised that the government will back mergers between banks adding that "citizens may rest assured that no bank will go bankrupt."

He was also confident that interest rates will tend to go down, that "domestic saving will increase, and there will be an inflow of foreign capital."

Commenting on the continuing backwash of the Mexican crisis in Argentina, Cavallo said that markets will eventually "be calm again" adding that "no company decided to pull" their investments out of Argentina lest the economic plan should sink.

He acknowledged that "the financial market was on tenterhooks due to the flight of short-term deposits to other countries." [passage omitted]

U.K.-Argentine Oil Exploitation Talks Termed 'Positive'

PY0302174995 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2247 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (TELAM)—The Foreign Ministry has reported that a two day meeting between Argentine and British representatives ended today having produced positive results. The meeting studied the possibility of cooperating in oil exploitation in the South Atlantic.

Foreign Policy Under Secretary Guillermo Gonzalez told reporters accredited to the Foreign Ministry: "The exploratory meetings were useful and produced positive results."

The delegations released a declaration at the end of the second day of negotiations stressing the "reasonably positive" nature of the dialogue.

"We studied cooperation and coordination proposals for the exploitation of hydrocarbons in the South Atlantic," said Gonzalez, who led the Argentine delegation.

The meetings took place at the Argentine Foreign Ministry. It was officially reported that the diplomatic groups agreed "to inform their respective governments and to schedule other meetings."

The diplomats also agreed to arrange a "technical team" meeting on an as yet undermined date to study the geological basin and possible cooperation areas.

This round of negotiations between Argentina and Great Britain on future oil exploration in the South Atlantic began yesterday and concluded today.

The meetings follow up the talks that began more that two years ago.

The British Foreign Office was represented at the meetings by William Marsden, under secretary of political affairs for America and Europe; David Anderson, the Legal Department number two; and South Atlantic area director Peter Newton.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry was represented by Foreign Policy Under Secretary Guillermo Gonzalez, Legal Advisory Office Director Alberto Daverede, and Malvinas Area Director Luis Mendiola.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella yesterday met with British Ambassador Peter Hall within this framework.

The talks centered exclusively on the issue of oil. Fishing, another pending problem, was not discussed.

A Foreign Ministry sources said, however, that Argentina "is willing to negotiate the fishing issue based on two central points: To prevent plundering and to preserve" the entire area.

Border Marking in Laguna del Desierto Concludes

PY0302175295 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1545 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (TELAM)—The Foreign Ministry reported today that the marking of the border in the Laguna del Desierto area was concluded today within the framework of the Arbitration Tribunal ruling.

The Foreign Ministry issued a communique saying that Spanish expert geographer Rafael Mata Olmo and his assistant Ignacio de Zabala Marenco "today concluded the work for which they were commissioned by the Arbitration Tribunal in compliance with the 21 October 1994 ruling."

Mata Olmo and Zabala Marenco arrived on 23 January to mark the border between Mark 62 and Mount Fitzroy. Their work lasted two weeks.

The Foreign Ministry said: "As established in the arbitration decision, the expert geographer marked, with unmistakable signs, the places were the Argentine-Chilean Borders Mixed Commission will build border marks."

"They also implemented other demarcation works indicated in the ruling, including topographic surveys and other measures, that will be used to draft the topographic drawing where the line established by the Arbitration Tribunal will be drawn," the communique adds.

The document says: "The expert will now submit a report to the Arbitration Tribunal, as established in the chapter on resolutions."

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Bolivia

Minister Calls on Coca Growers To Support Government Plan

PY0302175195 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Government Minister Carlos Sanchez Berzain yesterday summoned coca growers to decide whether they are for drug trafficking or for development.

"I would like to ask coca growers if we want the same things, if we want a country without drug trafficking, a developed country to improve the life of our children," said Sanchez Berzain, upon closing a seminar on agro-industrial development in Chapare. Sanchez Berzain also asserted that the Law on Coca and Controlled Substances (1008) is the only instrument for facing the drug trafficking gangs. He also called upon the international community to not suspend its economic and material assistance toward eradicating drug trafficking.

He said: "The instrument for drug enforcement in Bolivia is the law, and the law in our country, whether good or bad, is Law 1008."

He indicated that the international drug trafficking gangs with national networks are the main enemies of the Bolivian juridical system. He also recalled the warnings made by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada about this threat.

Sanchez Berzain added: "The Bolivian state is against drug trafficking, which is headed by people who directly or indirectly, with sophism and false appearances, support drug trafficking."

He called on coca growers to support the government initiatives for reaching through dialogue a national agreement for achieving success in the struggle against drug traffickers.

He said: "The dialogue within the law must be sincere and broad, but it must give almost immediate results, because as the president admitted, we are behind in some areas, which has created some uneasiness among the international cooperation organizations. If we continue to be behind we will harm the country."

The leader of coca growers, Evo Morales, said that there are worrisome contradictions in the government antinarcotics policy, and that coca growers want a world without drugs.

He said the government is showing insecurity before the international community. "Its proposal for fighting drug trafficking was first the Zero Option Plan, then the Master Plan, and now Law 1008," said Morales in reference to Sanchez Berzain's position on this issue.

Brazil

Ecuadoran President Says Talks With Guarantors To Continue

PA0602060395 Paris AFP in Spanish 0423 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 5 Jan [date as received] (AFP)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen said early this morning in Brasilia that the peace negotiations between Ecuador and the four guarantor countries will continue in the Brazilian capital at the ambassadorial level.

The Ecuadoran president made the assertion following a two-hour meeting at La Alborada Palace with his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Henrique Cardoso, to whom he explained his country's position in the armed border conflict with Peru.

Duran-Ballen, who arrived Sunday night in Brasilia—the first leg of a tour of three of the four countries that serve as guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol—announced that he will travel to Buenos Aires at 1000 GMT on Monday and then to Santiago, Chile.

Ecuadoran President Meets Cardoso in Brasilia

PY0602111695 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 0648 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Report by Vannildo Mendes]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 6 Feb (AE)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen met with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso between 0000 [0200 GMT] and 0200 [0400 GMT] this morning at Alvorada Palace in Brasilia in an effort to obtain Brazil's support for the Ecuadoran proposal to observe an immediate cease-fire at the Ecuadoran-Peruvian border. Leaving Alvorada Palace, Duran-Ballen said he was satisfied with Cardoso's receptiveness to his proposal, but noted that he could not give further details about their meeting. He said: "I am very grateful to the president for having met with me at such short notice and for having patiently listened to me at this late hour."

Duran-Ballen reiterated that Ecuador cannot be blamed for the conflict. He added: "We, Ecuadorans, are not the aggressors, we are the aggrieved party. This is a clear fact that has been reported by the international press. We, Ecuadorans, have been attacked by Peruvian forces." The Ecuadoran president said he hopes the negotiations he will be conducting with the governments of Brazil, Argentina, and Chile will result in an immediate cease-fire between Ecuador and Peru and that they may be able to sit and talk later to find a just solution for both sides. He added that he has high expectations about compliance with the declaration signed by 34 countries during the summit called by U.S. President Bill Clinton and which calls for negotiated solutions for all conflicts in the hemisphere. He said: "It would have been hypocritical to sign that document if we did not intend complying with it."

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Duran-Ballen said he has supported from the outset the negotiations promoted by the "guarantor" countries—Brazil, Argentina, and Chile—and that he has taken the initiative of contacting these countries to discuss the Ecuadoran-Peruvian impasse. He added the OAS could intervene in the conflict should the negotiations sponsored by the "guarantors" fail. He hopes that, after these visits, the presidents of Brazil, Argentina, and Chile will meet to form a united front to study peace proposals that would be later be presented to Ecuador and Peru.

Early this morning, Duran-Ballen is scheduled to leave for Buenos Aires, Argentina, where at noon today he will meet President Carlos Menem. From there, he is scheduled to go to Chile to meet Chilean President Eduardo Frei.

Native Communities Threatened by Peru-Ecuador Conflict

PY0602123495 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 500 Indian communities are threatened by the Peru-Ecuador conflict. This was reported by the Latin American Human Rights Association in a communique sent to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The Latin American Human Rights Association asks for an urgent meeting with the UN Security Council to obtain a cease-fire on the border between Peru and Ecuador. It states that 3,000 Indians have already been dislodged as result of the conflict.

Ministers Present Differing Views on U.S. Aid for Mexico

PY0302125795 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Feb 95 p 24

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Government decision to grant $47.8 billion in aid to Mexico has caused a split within Fernando Henrique Cardoso's cabinet. While Planning Minister Jose Serra and Finance Minister Pedro Malan yesterday said they consider the U.S. measure very positive in helping to relieve the Mexican crisis, Agriculture Minister Jose Eduardo Andrade Vieira criticized it because he considers it exaggerated.

"Brazil has lived through a much more serious crisis, and the United States did not show the least good will. African countries like Uganda and Ethiopia need help much more than Mexico. If Mexico were located south of Brazil, I do not think it would have received help," Andrade Vieira said sarcastically.

Malan and Serra believe the U.S. decision was correct because it is necessary to avoid a worsening of the Mexican economic crisis, which would end up affecting international economies, especially in Latin America. Although they consider Brazil to be in a far more comfortable situation than Mexico, Malan and Serra both believe that a worsening of the Mexican problem would fatally affect Brazil and cause a drainage of foreign investments.

"The Mexican crisis is not good for anyone. We must prevent the country from getting into a no-return situation," Serra said.

"If the United States had not made a decision, the lack of help for Mexico would have had significant implications," Malan answered, when asked about possible harmful consequences for Brazil.

Despite having criticized the U.S. support, Minister Andrade Vieira defended participation by Brazil in creating an aid package for Mexico. He believes Brazilian solidarity will mark a precedent that could allow Brazil in the future to claim similar treatment.

Malan rebutted the criticism in saying that the Brazilian aid will favor Wall Street investors and bankers who, according to him, have and will still suffer losses with the Mexican crisis. According to Malan, the aid for Mexico will favor the international economy, which is what Brazil is interested in.

"The issue is not to help Wall Street bankers but to ensure the stability of the economy. It is in our interest that the Mexican crisis be resolved," Malan said.

Not knowing the details of the decision made by U.S. President Bill Clinton, PP [Popular Party] President Alvaro Dias said that the measure is necessary because the crisis is not limited only to Mexico, as it also affects other countries.

Daily Terms U.S. Bailout of Mexico 'Unprecedented'

PY0502182395 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 2 Feb 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The Move of a Statesman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a move driven by determination and courage, U.S. President Bill Clinton has made an unprecedented decision to come to the rescue of the Mexican economy, thus preventing the crisis provoked by the 20 December devaluation of the Mexican peso from spreading dangerously and causing a global economic retraction.

Clinton's decision could be interpreted as a measure designed to benefit the United States itself because his country could lose thousands of jobs as a result of the strong recession occurring in Mexico and it would certainly be forced to face again another large and overwhelming tide of immigrants across its border. Yet, the U.S. President was not moved by selfish motives when he made the above decision. Clinton made the historic, daring move—which is reminiscent of the Marshall Plan—because he was aware of the disastrous effects the Mexican crisis could generate at this juncture when the world is also experiencing the agitation of Latin American markets, the Russian regional segregation, the heavy cost of rebuilding Kobe after the earthquake, and the uncertainty surrounding the Chinese succession.

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Showing a keen political sense, Clinton perceived that the $40 billion "package" he had proposed to the Senate had little chance of passing the Senate and, unexpectedly, he made the decision—exercising his executive powers—of substantially increasing the bailout aid to Mexico. He ordered the concession of U.S. guarantees totaling $20 billion, asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to add $10 billion to the $7.8 billion "stand-by" loan that had been approved earlier, and urged the International Bank for Settlements (BIS) to approve $10 billion in short-term loans. Informed of Clinton's decision, the congressional leaders of the Republican Party—which now has majority in Congress—and of the Democratic Party issued a joint statement conveying support for the President's order.

It may be said that the request to the IMF to increase its contribution could represent a change in the IMF bylaws. If this were the case, it would be beneficial. As a major contributor to the IMF, the United States has enough influence to change the IMF standard operating mechanisms. Furthermore, as we have already stated in this column, the IMF leaders themselves are concerned and would like to institute a protection system or a "facility" consisting of reserves from both developing and developed countries to defend the emerging markets from the nefarious effects of an abrupt flight of speculative capital.

In the face of Clinton's action, which has been the move of a statesman, there would be no reason for Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Colombia to refuse to participate in the bailout effort by providing guarantees for Mexico to obtain a line of credit amounting to $1 billion. If one condition for participating in this effort was the U.S. Senate approval of Clinton's proposed aid, this condition is no longer justifiable.

Finance Minister Pedro Malan has already confirmed the Brazilian Government's willingness to participate in the rescue operation which, as he said, is not intended to help international bankers who sustained losses in their transactions with Mexico, but the Mexican Government, which needs to put its external accounts back in order. A normalization of the Mexican external accounts will directly benefit all the Latin American markets.

The allegation that the U.S.-sponsored aid to Mexico may be an attempt by Washington "to globalize" the cost of a local crisis is ridiculous. What the Clinton administration is seeking is precisely to "deglobalize" the crisis—if we may coin a new word—to defuse a time bomb.

The government will naturally listen to the Senate before making a final decision, in accordance with democartic rules, but to call a congressional investigating committee to discuss the subject seems to us completely out of place. We repeat, these are guarantees offered to a Latin American country that are perfectly compatible with the size of our exchange reserves. This will not be like the bad loan made to Poland in the past.

Chile

Chile 'Moderately Optimistic' About Peace Settlement

PY0302182795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1712 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Feb (EFE)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Mariano Fernandez reported on 3 February that the Chilean Government is moderately optimistic about the progress of negotiations currently being held in Rio de Janeiro to settle the border conflict between Peru and Ecuador.

According to Fernandez, the Ecuadoran and Peruvian presidents are expected to confirm the latest proposal submitted by the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States) in the forthcoming hours. The deputy ministers of the feuding countries have already accepted this proposal.

Fernandez explained that the latter includes five main points, namely a cease-fire, the separation of warring forces, the demilitarization of the area under conflict, the demobilization of troops, and the dispatch of observers to monitor both parties' compliance with these points.

Fernandez emphasized that over the last few hours there has been a perceptible "change in the atmosphere" over the negotiations in Rio de Janeiro, following the ultimatum issued yesterday to the combatants.

A significant event was that the representatives from Peru and Ecuador were, for the first time since negotiations started three days ago, both present at the latest meeting with the deputy foreign ministers of the guarantor countries, which ended early this morning.

Fernandez underscored the "major effort, endurance, and patience" shown by the guarantor countries in trying to resolve the conflict, "which had already come to the flash point."

Chilean Government Denies Weapons Sales to Ecuador

PA0502143895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1235 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago de Chile, 5 Feb (EFE)—The Chilean Government today denied a Peruvian newspaper charge it has been selling weapons to Ecuador since fighting broke out between troops of the two countries along the Condor Mountain Range, adding it has sold no equipment to any country in the region for the past three months.

The Lima newspaper LA REPUBLICA has reported that C-130 Hercules airplanes of the Ecuadoran Air Force, flying the Colombia-Brazil-Bolivia route, have landed on two occasions in the Chilean city of Iquique to load weapons.

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The Peruvian newspaper has stated this development is a particularly serious one, because Chile is among the guarantors of the Rio Protocol, along with Argentina, Brazil, and the United States, and has actively participated in efforts to stop the conflict.

Acting Chilean Foreign Minister Mariano Fernandez categorically denied the report and has assured no military equipment sales have been authorized for any country in the region in the past three months.

In statements made last night in Punta Arenas, 2,400 km south of Santiago, Fernandez recalled that weapons exports require the approval of a committee of deputy secretaries, of which he is a member.

"Ever since I became foreign relations deputy secretary on 1 November, Chile has not authorized any weapons sale to South American countries, including, of course, Ecuador and Peru," Mariano Fernandez said.

The official, who headed for Antarctica today to inaugurate a new base of the Chilean Antarctica Institute, said an official reply to the Peruvian newspaper report will be issued later.

Chilean Ambassador to Quito Roberto Pizarro has agreed with Fernandez that this is a false report, and during a telephone conversation with the newspaper EL MERCURIO, he attributed this report to the "nervousness" of certain sectors.

At Los Condores Air Base in the city of Iquique, located 1,857 km north of Santiago, an Air Force spokesman has said no plane from Ecuador or any other country has landed there in the past weeks.

Ecuadoran Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo toured the installations of Army Ordnance (Famae) in Santiago on 23 November, during an official visit to Chile.

On that occasion, Gallardo voiced his country's interest in collaborating with the development and production of war materiel of the Chilean military industry.

Gallardo also underscored the excellent existing relations between the two countries and said "there is a permanent exchange growing stronger by the day" in the defense area.

Famae has fulfilled various contracts with the Ecuadoran Armed Forces in the area of light explosives in the past years according to military sources,

Famae manufactures rifles and submachine guns, artillery rockets, anti-aerial systems, control and command systems, armored vehicles, various ammunitions, bulletproof vests, and other equipment related to defense.

Proposed Money Laundering Law Detailed

95SM0128A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Dec 94 pp A1, A12

[By Maria Paz Lopez Hermida]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The worldwide drug trafficking industry is valued at approximately U.S. $550 billion, stated Undersecretary of the Interior Belisario Velasco a few months ago. It is also estimated that more than a quarter of this money is "laundered" so that it can enter the financial system. [passage omitted]

It has not been easy to establish a legal definition of this crime in Chile. In 1991, the government submitted to Congress the draft of the new Narcotics Law that includes provisions on money laundering. And in the last few months, discussion of the bill was concluded. Although work on the legislation was halted in September by the Constitutional Court, which is reviewing the new powers that the State Defense Council (CDE) would have, new developments are expected this month.

Many sectors have different expectations about how the law will apply, but in general it is being praised for now. "It is one of the most modern and efficient laws in Latin America, because it draws on all international experience," emphasizes Pablo Lagos, legal adviser to the Interministerial Council on Drug Enforcement.

Nip Crime in the Bud

The main objective of a money laundering law is to keep that activity out of our country.

Lagos explains that if we want to keep Chile from becoming a money laundering paradise, it is imperative that we "take firm measures to nip it in the bud."

Specifically, the law calls for fines of anywhere from 5 million to 26 million pesos, and prison terms of 5 to 15 years. These penalties will be meted out to anyone who knowingly invests or uses profits derived from drug trafficking.

And there is more. The law not only punishes those who know about this crime, but also those who should know about it. Lagos cites the example of a bank executive who receives a new customer with an investment of U.S. $10 million and does not ask any questions. Now, he will be held responsible if it turns out that the money came from drug trafficking.

The bill takes great care to avoid creating what its authors call "a witch hunt like in other countries." The idea is to prevent people from accusing others of money laundering for the purpose of destroying them, since the effects of an accusation of this nature are incalculable.

For this reason, the law assigns the CDE the function of conducting a preliminary administrative investigation prior to any judicial proceedings to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to justify taking the case to court. The legal concept is similar to that involved in accusations of tax fraud, for example, in which the Internal Revenue Service conducts a preliminary investigation.

This issue is of concern to the current chairman of the CDE, Luis Bates. Although he has confidence in the new

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law, he feels that those who will be responsible for enforcing it will have to develop their skills.

"And this is a great challenge, because for an investigation of this type, you need to have specific economic and commercial knowledge. I am already concerned that the professionals who have this kind of skill tend to be in the private sector, and we have to figure out how to attract them to these administrative agencies."

The investigation will be conducted in total secrecy. Indeed, the law provides prison terms of 541 days to 5 years for those who reveal information about a case being studied by the CDE. "And this is important, because if anyone knows anything, the investigation falls into serious jeopardy, and the money launderers are tipped off and can disappear into thin air in a matter of minutes," explains Lagos.

Banking Secrecy Controversy

An important part of the battle to halt money laundering takes place in banking and financial institutions. Hernan Somerville, president of the Banking Association, expresses his concern that these institutions may be used for illicit activity. He clarifies, however, that so far no Chilean bank has been implicated in any international investigation as a perpetrator, accomplice, or accessory to money laundering.

One of the controversial aspects of the bill has to do with banking secrecy. The text authorizes the CDE to waive secrecy provisions when it has good cause to suspect that the money in a checking account has ties to drug trafficking.

Although legislators think that this power is indispensable for an effective investigation, there are fears.

Some economists point out that it might become an obstacle to legitimate activities. They are worried that if this practice increases, people will be driven to open accounts abroad.

Council officials understand the apprehensions raised by this power. "I understand why many people are fearful of this possibility, because it is obvious that if the power is abused, the damage can be tremendous," says Bates.

Lagos comments that this article was discussed "down to the last detail." A provision was added that two-thirds of the CDE must agree to ask for banking secrecy to be waived. Moreover, very precise evidence is required to establish a link to drug trafficking.

The law emphasizes the need for banks to take the utmost precaution to avoid any involvement. Lagos believes that this will not be difficult, because many of the rules imposed by European regulatory bodies, such as the identification of the customer and the prohibition of anonymous accounts, are already being obeyed.

There are other points that will require further refinement, however. "For example, it may be a good idea to incorporate the experience of other countries, where above a certain amount of money, the origin of the profits to be invested must be documented," says Lagos.

Insufficient Law

Lagos warns that this law is not a cure-all for this crime, "because the mechanism in question would be useless if people did not provide the background information they had or if they refused to cooperate with the investigations."

Perhaps the greatest fear is that people will underestimate the significance of this crime. "It must be nipped in the bud, or it will become a monster that can devour an entire country," states Assistant Police Superintendent Carlos Pinto, who is acting chief of the Economic Crime Investigation Brigade.

For years, some have thought that money laundering might benefit the economy because it would bring in more dollars. Economist Jorge Desormeaux declares emphatically that its effects are disastrous. In his opinion, more than anything else it affects a country's image on the international market.

But aside from economic considerations, it is now widely agreed that stopping money laundering is an effective means of preventing corruption. Jeffrey Robinson, author of the best-selling book in English "The Launderers," which deals with this subject, asserts that this crime "corrupts everything it touches: bankers, politicians, attorneys, accountants." For this reason, the drafters of the Chilean law want to see it published soon. Lagos explains: "While we are waiting, the launderers are inventing thousands of tricks to perfect their crime."

Further Measures for Agriculture Announced

95SM0128B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Dec 94 pp A1, A12

[FBIS Translated Text] Agriculture Minister Emiliano Ortega yesterday announced three new measures aimed at overcoming the profits crisis in the sector. The first of them is the postponement of bidding on the portfoliio of farm debt owed to the Production Development Corporation (Corfo), which totals $120 million.

In addition, the cabinet secretary indicated that in 1995 a total of 1.9 billion pesos will be invested in training some 6,000 individuals who work in the farm sector.

The third measure is provide an earlier effective date (January) for a regulation implementing the law that allows for the forgiveness of debts to Corfo [as published]. Furthermore, the minister termed premature the criticism from the private sector of measures taken by the government last Saturday.

"Last Saturday we disclosed the first measures aimed at finding a solution to the crisis in the farm sector. We have kept working and will continue working to take all necessary actions to deal with future agricultural problems," indicated Ortega.

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The National Agricultural Association (SNA) had stated that the measures announced on Saturday were insufficient, and groups of farmers in Region VIII have staged demonstrations on Highway 5 South, prompting a severe warning from Interior Minister Carlos Figueroa.

Regarding the first measure announced yesterday, Minister Vice President of Corfo Felipe Sandoval, who was present at the meeting, stated that the farm debt portfolio, which consists of 731 debtors, was supposed be put up for bidding today, but the process was postponed until the second half of January so that farmers would have longer to prepare the prepayment of their commitments to the banks. "Furthermore, we will revise the minimum values of the debts, which may have ended up being too high after the revaluation of the peso by the Central Bank," stated Sandoval.

Of the $120 million owed, 46 percent corresponds to commitments made by farmers in the Maule region, and if Regions VI and VIII are added, the proportion climbs to 60 percent, added Minister Ortega.

Sandoval explained that when Corfo auctions off a loan to a bank that agrees to take it on a given date, the debtor has one month to prepay it at the amount bid by the financial institution. Thus, if the bank took the loan at 20 percent, the debtor pays 20.6 percent.

Farm loans extended by Corfo are very old, since the last ones were issued at the beginning of the Aylwin administration.

Rural Training

"The second matter has to do with a fundamental need for agricultural development in Chile: manpower and business training," stated the minister of agriculture.

A total of 1.9 billion pesos will be invested in this area next year, which will increase by several multiples the number of participants in the agricultural job and business training programs.

National Training and Employment Service (Sence) Director Julio Valladares reported that the investment announced for next year is twice what was invested this year.

He added that this will directly support the modernization of production that is necessary for the national economy to take part in international markets.

Valladares noted that some 6,000 persons will benefit from this program in 1995.

"The program has three objectives. The first is to train 3,000 rural youths under a joint agreement between Sence and the Agriculture and Livestock Development Institute (Indap). It was decided to double the program's resources to 1.5 billion pesos," he stated.

The second objective is to provide forestry and agriculture-livestock training to some 1,000 workers, for an investment of 235 million pesos.

In addition, a pilot program will provide management training for 1,000 small agricultural business owners, who need to develop better management, marketing, and other skills. The idea is to focus the plan on Regions VI, VII, and IX. In this case, the investment will amount to approximately 50 million pesos.

Forgiveness of Cora Debts

The third measure involves the forgiveness of debts to the Agrarian Reform Corporation (Cora). This law establishes a regulatory corporation that will benefit about 30,000 farmers.

"I want to announce that for those farmers, we will speed up the issuance of regulations to the first days of January. From that time on, they will have access to the benefits of the law providing for the forgiveness of Cora debts, which amount to more than $200 million," indicated Ortega.

The farmers involved are mainly the original beneficiaries, from 18,000 to 19,000 people.

The rest are farmers who bought Cora plots or lots divided up in the Agrarian Reform process; that is, up to two plots.

Premature Judgment

When asked about the pressure tactics being practiced by some farmers in the southern part of the country, Minister Ortega indicated that "we are open to holding talks and studying solutions, so it appears to me that the forceful measures are provoking reactions that are not appropriate in a climate of dialogue."

He added that the demonstrations are not bringing about faster solutions, since they can only be achieved through specific proposals of instruments and options to deal with the problems. For this purpose, the minister has remained in direct contact with the groups affected by the crisis.

"We are working and taking into account the proposals made by the trade associations and the political parties, but I am concerned about the contradictions in their proposals, which we must resolve so that our policy is consistent with the economic model."

Finally, Ortega indicated that "the judgments or criticism of the government's effort are premature. Moreover, the measures that will be adopted will entail high costs, and we must decide how much we as a country are willing to pay to contribute to the development of agriculture."

SNA Reaction

The president of the National Agricultural Association, Ernesto Correa, described as positive the measures announced by the minister of the sector, although he expressed the opinion that they will not solve the existing profits crisis. "They do not deal with the big problem,

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but they alleviate the situation, especially for a small group of farmers, who will at least have a peaceful Christmas," he explained.

It should be recalled that although there are more than 200,000 farmers in the country, a total of 731 will benefit from the debt forgiveness measure, and a couple of thousand from the other measures.

Correa added that only the training program is aimed at tackling the real problem in the sector, "although that is only true if there is a certain level of profits, because what is the sense in training farm workers if the sector is not viable?"

Regarding the pressure tactics pursued by some groups of farmers to express their discontent with the lack of government action to solve the crisis, Correa indicated that the SNA feels that dialogue is the way to find a solution, not road blockages.

"Nevertheless, you must understand that some farmers feel disoriented by the constant changes in conditions, and they resort to this type of behavior. There is no need to announce spectacular measures to mollify them, but the government should show its intentions of solving the problem in the short term," he asserted.

Mobilizations

The senators of the Union for Chile Pact yesterday expressed their empathy with the farmers who are mobilizing to draw attention to the farm crisis.

Protests were staged yesterday in Los Angeles, in Region VIII, where more than 500 farmers formed a caravan of vehicles four kilometers long, from Route 5 South to the city's main square. Then they delivered a letter of protest to the provincial governor.

This demonstration took place in spite of public warnings issued yesterday by Interior Minister Carlos Figueroa, who repeated yesterday statements to the effect that the law governs all citizens, and therefore appropriate measures will be taken against farmers who insist on blocking traffic on the nation's highways.

The cabinet chief, who declined to expound on the matter because information on the crisis should be channeled through the Agriculture Ministry, maintained that those who advocate and perpetrate forceful measures to call attention to their plight "must suffer the consequences."

He contended that the Carabineros have very specific instructions to keep the country's roadways open and not to allow for any reason demonstrations like those held the day before yesterday in Temuco and Linares.

Union for Chile

The senators of the Union for Chile Pact, on the other hand, stated in Valparaiso yesterday that they understand why the mobilizations are being staged throughout the country due to the agricultural crisis. They also expressed solidarity with the plight of thousands of small and medium farmers, "in view of the lack of future prospects in the sector."

Hernan Larrain of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI), Sergio Romero of National Renewal (RN), and Francisco Javier Errazuriz of the UCCP [expansion not given] also repeated their criticism of the measures announced by the government to deal with the farm crisis, which has been aggravated by the devaluation of the dollar. They said that these proposals by the government were "partial and insufficient," and that they resembled a "lead life preserver" because all they offer is indebtedness, rather than real solutions.

They warned that the mobilizations are justified by the government's "insensitivity" and by the fact that such actions have been legitimized by the government itself, since it has yielded to similar pressure from teachers, doctors, coal miners, court employees, and other groups.

They then called upon the government to "come down to earth, listen to the peasants and farmers, and leave their soft, comfortable offices on Teatinos Street" to see the harsh reality that those who work the land must face day after day, while solutions continue to elude them.

Larrain also stated that these mobilizations are justified because the government has been unable to provide an adequate response to the various proposals they have put forward.

The senators recalled that RN, UDI, and UCCP have all made specific proposals to cope with the farm crisis and restore free competition in the agriculture-livestock sector, which is usually impeded by the developed countries.

They emphasized that in addition to the crisis, the sector must also face foreign protectionism, which makes the competition unfair to Chilean producers, as well as the profits crisis, which is basically due to the uncompetitive exchange rate.

The senators made it clear that the Union for Chile Pact is not asking the government to provide protection for agriculture, but is asking and demanding that the government protect the free market. They alleged that the free market has been distorted by government decisions.

Errazuriz said that in the last two years, the country has received proceeds from the sale of assets, which by their very nature are sold on a one-time-only basis to foreign investors through the ADRs [American Depositary Receipts]. Last year these proceeds amounted to $800 million, this year $1.7 billion. "This increased supply of dollars is exerting downward pressure on the exchange rate, and as a result, we are experiencing this short-term situation that is not likely to be repeated," he added.

He then demanded that the Antitrust Commission act with due diligence and even issue orders against innovations when goods are imported that are affecting the

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international market situation. He also called for the efficient and timely implementation of price bands.

Senator Larrain, in turn, stated that the diagnoses and proposals concerning the agriculture issue have already been made, and now it is time to consider these proposals from the opposition.

Regarding the mobilizations that are taking place (road blockages and others), the UDI congressman indicated that they are the result of the "government's insensitivity" in failing to understand the nature of the farm problem or to attack the problem at the root, rather than just the effects of the problem.

Demonstration

Correspondent Olga Elgueta reports that more than 500 farmers participated yesterday in a caravan of vehicles that covered four kilometers from Route 5 South to the town square of Los Angeles, where they delivered a letter addressed to Governor Juan Carlos Coronata in which they express their complete disagreement with the recent plan of measures adopted by the government to deal with the farm crisis.

Employers React to Proposed Labor Reforms

95SM0127B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Dec 94 pp A1, A15

[FBIS Translated Text] The controversy over the new labor reforms that are to be submitted for legislative consideration heated up yesterday. The government will officially reveal the details of the reform package today.

Industry leaders have made it known that they reject the announced amendments. Pedro Lizana, president of the Industrial Development Association (Sofofa), expressed his "absolute disagreement" with these reforms because they would introduce unnecessary regulations, he asserted.

On the other hand, the president of the United Labor Confederation (CUT), Manuel Bustos, indicated that the political parties as well as business must understand that labor needs the appropriate legal tools to defend its interests, although he declined to discuss the reforms before they are explained by Labor Minister Jorge Arrate.

In addition, Bustos presented a negative assessment of developments in 1994 with respect to changes in labor legislation. In his opinion, the government was not perceptive enough to push the changes at the appropriate time.

Jorge Arrate disagreed with this evaluation, and called upon the CUT to refrain from overreacting on the matter of amendments to the Labor Code.

The new labor reforms will be announced at noon today by Arrate and Minister Secretary General of the Presidency Genaro Arriagada at a ceremony in La Moneda Palace.

Among other things, the administration will advocate expanding collective bargaining to inter-company trade unions and seasonal workers employed in the agriculture, construction, maritime, port, forestry, and other sectors; and establishing a schedule of standard minimum pay for different jobs, functions, and trades.

The reform measures also seek to eliminate the practice of hiring replacement workers during strikes; to provide for compensation by employers who engage in anti-union activities that result in the discharge of workers; to make the workday more flexible; and to expand the amount of information provided during collective bargaining so that the workers will know more about the company's present and projected business situation.

This initiative also sparked a heated debate among representatives of the governing and opposition political parties.

On the right, there was harsh criticism of the government's announcement. The president of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI), Jovino Novoa, called this package one of the "most demagogic" measures of recent times.

The head of National Renewal (RN), Deputy Andres Allamand, believes that these reforms are sending the wrong signal. RN Senator Sebastian Pinera asserted that his party will not compromise in its defense of the essential principles of the employment contract.

In contrast, the president of the Christian Democratic Party, Alejandro Foxley, came out in defense of the initiative. He argued, in response to the opposition and business leaders, that this labor reform is not a step backwards, but "a modernization," in the sense that it is aimed at balancing labor relations.

Sofofa Rejection

"I am in absolute disagreement. I think that introducing more regulations in the labor market at a time when everyone is deregulating runs counter to our own policy of engaging with the world," commented industry leader Pedro Lizana.

He contended that labor legislation should have three objectives: increasing employment as the principal guarantee of greater social well-being, boosting workers' income, and safeguarding the interests of the contracting parties, that is, management and labor.

He emphasized that in the last 10 years, workers have seen an increase in the share of the gross domestic product (GDP) represented by their wages, from 43 to 49 percent, just under $20 billion.

A survey of wages in the industrial sector, conducted in August by Sofofa and covering 265 companies and 73,160 workers, revealed a real growth in wages of 5.6 percent over the figure for the same month of the previous year. Of the workers surveyed, 40.3 percent

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were earning more than 250,000 pesos a month, while 10.7 percent were earning less than 100,000 pesos.

The leader admitted that wages in general are low in Chile, but he insisted that the only way to raise them is through increased employment.

According to Lizana, measures such as inter-company negotiations run counter to the trend in the world, since the concern in Europe is with deregulating and allowing the market to function.

He expressed opposition to the idea of establishing a 30-day exemption period following collective bargaining for all workers in the bargining unit, noting that "when mechanisms are introduced that add rigidity to the labor market, just as there are businessmen who take advantage of the law, there are also workers who take advantage of the law. We are all human beings, with the same defects."

Lizana denied labor leaders' assertions that after collective bargaining, workers are discharged in reprisal.

The industry official indicated that one of the reform measures that have been proposed is a requirement that industrial firms negotiate with labor unions to modernize their businesses. "I think that amounts to depriving business managers of their proper authority and further complicating their existence with regulations for everything," he declared.

Construction Sector

The president of the Chilean Chamber of Construction, Eugenio Velasco, acknowledged some positive aspects of the labor reforms, among which he cited labor flexibility, the prohibition of anti-union practices, and the workers' right to be informed.

He expressed disagreement with the elimination of hiring replacement workers during strikes, however, arguing that this alternative has been, more than anything else, a psychological factor that has helped settle strikes faster.

He also came out against inter-company or supra-company negotiations, pointing out that each company has different characteristics in terms of assets, productivity, competitiveness, etc.

Velasco stated that the current Labor Code allows seasonal construction workers to negotiate collective bargaining agreements, which are different from collective contracts with respect to seniority, quorums, etc.

At present, 20 percent of construction workers have collective bargaining agreements, a similar percentage to that of workers with collective contracts in other sectors. He said this figure is not higher because there is a lack of awareness of labor legislation.

He noted that establishing a schedule of standard minimum pay for different jobs, functions, and trades would be a regressive practice that would make working conditions more rigid. He explained that construction businesses work on different projects, and making a square meter of molding is different in Santiago than in Punta Arenas, Iquique, or Concepcion.

CUT Assessment

As indicated, Manuel Bustos declined yesterday to venture an opinion on the scope of the labor reform program drafted by the government, the contents of which have been revealed in the press.

He argued that first he expects to be officially informed of the program.

He indicated that the CUT has a negative impression of the reforms, because the government "was not perceptive enough to provide a timely response."

He emphasized that both government officials and the political parties seem to have a hard time understanding that the workers need more legal tools available to them to defend their rights.

In the opinion of the CUT president, 1994 was a bad year for labor, because it was fraught with difficulties and frustrations for workers. During this past year, the CUT's goal of establishing a better balance between labor and management was not achieved. He contended that the two sectors grew further apart.

And he added that "the government has had a hard time understanding how difficult it has been for workers to establish a more humane and balanced relationship with management."

According to Manuel Bustos, the economic adjustment caused a major decline in wages and an increase in layoffs.

He indicated that the CUT is concerned about the 6.8 percent unemployment rate; in some regions, it is higher than 7 percent.

He also criticized the regulations governing the collective bargaining process, because workers have seen a shrinkage in their benefits and have won meager pay raises.

He recalled the lack of agreement between the CUT and the government with respect to the minimum wage, arguing that it has been detrimental for workers because the current level amounts to a deficit. In contrast, he expressed a positive opinion of the joint agreement on a 12.2 percent adjustment for the public sector, which was achieved last November.

Bustos reiterated the CUT's apprehensions about Chile's imminent membership in NAFTA. He pointed out that this trade agreement lacks social and environmental clauses, and the addenda to the agreement cannot make up for these deficiencies.

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Minister Arrate

Minister Jorge Arrate asked the CUT to take a wait-and-see attitude about the labor reforms until the package has been presented. He urged the labor organization to study the initiatives and to refrain from overreacting.

The cabinet secretary disagreed with the CUT's assessment of the labor situation, noting that although the final report has not been written, he thinks 1994 was not a bad year.

He stressed that important progress has been made in areas such as wage improvements in some sectors, especially the public administration.

He added that there has been an improvement in enforcement of labor legislation, emphasizing the coordinated monitoring program and the establishment of roving teams of labor inspectors.

At the legislative level, he indicated that the bills on the National Training and Employment Service (SENCE) and the expansion of the Labor Office's powers have already been submitted to Congress and are expected to be enacted some time next year.

Arrate met yesterday with the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Labor Committee, Deputy Rodolfo Seguel, who reported that the chamber expects to receive the bill proposing amendments to the Labor Code by the second week of January. He indicated that analysis of the bill will not begin until March because of the parliamentary recess in February.

Colombia

Samper Expects Clinton To Sign Aid Certification

PA0502020095 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1924 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bogota, 4 Feb (DPA)—The local news media disclosed today that Colombian President Ernesto Samper has assured that if the United States is fair, the certified statement of foreign aid will be signed, thus acknowledging the struggle that Colombia is waging against drug trafficking.

The president gave assurances that although much is left to be done, no one can deny the positive results his administration has achieved in the struggle against the cultivation and trafficking of narcotics.

Samper said that "despite the difficulties we have encountered, we have achieved very positive results, which we will present on 7 February when I will have served my first six months in office."

"We have reformed the surrender law for drug traffickers, we have initiated a program to eradicate illegal crops, and we have proposed an international summit on money laundering, efforts that should be acknowledged by the United States," Samper said.

The Colombian ministers of justice, defense, and foreign affairs will travel this week to the United States to explain to various U.S. officials the efforts that Colombia has made to resolve the drug trade problem.

Meanwhile, Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo will meet with U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Myles Frechette to exchange opinions on the certified statement issue, which has caused quite a controversy in Colombia.

Pardo says he hopes there will be understanding and clarity with regard to Colombia's drug trade policy. "Let us not forget that the United States and Colombia need each other," he said.

Samper said that in addition to these efforts, his administration has pledged to bolster the General Drug Plan [Plan Integral Antidrogas], which will be implemented over the next three years.

"Because of all of this, it would be unfair for them to deny us the certified statement. I trust that the U.S. president will issue that statement after he has had an opportunity to carefully examine all of our efforts," the Colombian president said.

Foreign Minister To Ask U.S. To Increase Drug Fight

PA0602003695 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2022 GMT 5 Feb 94

[All quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo said today, before traveling to Washington, that the Colombian Government will ask the United States to intensify its struggle against drug consumption.

"We are making efforts to combat drug trafficking, but efforts are also required from the United States and other countries that consume drugs, launder drug money, and traffick in chemicals used to process drugs," Pardo said.

The foreign minister, who will travel with Defense Minister Fernando Botero, explained that in the United States he will discuss with various officials drug trafficking and the need for increased cooperation in the struggle against that scourge."

The diplomatic offensive was established after Myles Frechette, the U.S. ambassador to Colombia, on 27 January gave assurances that it would be "difficult" for the U.S. Congress to grant its annual certification to Colombia because of the government's ineffective counternarcotics policy."

Foreign Minister Pardo admitted that with regard to the counternarcotics struggle, relations with the United

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States "are difficult," but he insisted that to achieve a tangible decrease in drug trafficking, "it is necessary for other countries to make efforts similar to Colombia's."

"We are urging the United States to combat those aspects of the struggle against drug trafficking in which it is involved," Pardo underscored.

He added: "We want to fight against drug trafficking, and they (the Americans) do too, but they cannot struggle alone, just as we cannot."

Pardo expressed confidence with regard to the results the Colombian delegation will achieve in Washington where, on 1 March, Congress will discuss the effectiveness of President Ernesto Samper's counternarcotics policy in order to determine whether to continue or suspend economic aid to Colombia.

Pardo and Botero will present to U.S. officials a report on Colombia's counternarcotics operations over the past few months, highlighting Colombia's participation in operations against the international cartels, its destruction of an increased number of laboratories, and its pursuit operations.

"Our policy is to strengthen justice, not because the United States has requested it, but because we, the people of Colombia, know that we need it," the foreign minister said.

Pardo admitted that there are "faults and weaknesses" in the policy of submission to justice, under which the sentences of drug traffickers are reduced if they confess to at least one crime, but he guaranteed that this policy will be subjected to a profound reform over the next few months.

"We are aware," he said, "that there are difficulties with this policy, but the high-level commission that was formed three weeks ago to study it will improve it."

Pardo acknowledged, "We need a good relationship and cooperation with the United States in order to understand one another, because the joint efforts of both countries are necessary to achieve success in the struggle against the drug cartels."

Ambassador Denies Lack of Diplomacy in Dealing With U.S.

PA0402034795 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Report on interview via satellite with Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, Colombian ambassador to the United States, in New York by Alvaro Hernan Castro on 3 February; from the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political observers have said in private that a large share of the responsibility for the current state of relations between Colombia and the United States falls on our ambassador to that country, Carlos Lleras de la Fuente. He is being criticized for not earning the gringos' trust and because he has not gone to the U.S. Congress to make himself known. He has also incurred the animosity of State Department officials.

Colombian Ambassador Carlos Lleras de la Fuente talked today with the "Seven O'Clock Newscast." He said relations between the two countries are immersed in a cloud of confusion.

According to him, difficulties in understanding are not due to a lack of diplomacy.

[Begin recording] [Castro) Mr. Ambassador, could you say a segment of the Colombian Government is upset with your actions? There has been criticism. Some people say diplomacy was lacking in the handling of this situation.

[Lleras] No. I do not know if they are referring to my statements regarding U.S. Ambassador Myles Frechette's comments. Perhaps they may not have liked one of my adjectives, but what I said is entirely true. [end recording]

As for his apparent lack of rapport with U.S. officials, the ambassador said he has made all the preparations for the defense and foreign ministers' visit.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Have we lacked diplomacy in Washington?

[Lleras] No. They are objectively studying the results of the counternarcotics effort and are comparing them to their standards. We hope we can clear up the issue, both the embassy as well as the foreign and defense ministers, who should be arriving on Monday night. [end recording]

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Drug Policy, Frechette

PA0602070595 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Station commentary from the "TV Today" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombia is in suspense, waiting to receive a good behavior certificate from the United States. As a result, the ministers of defense and foreign relations are on their way to Washington. Their mission: To try to prevent further damage to the country. And all of this is due to the assertions of the U.S. ambassador to Colombia, who gave us an F in behavior. This is to be expected, because the ambassador is not Latin America's best friend.

Although Myles Frechette was born in Chile, speaks fluent Spanish and Portuguese, and has devoted his entire political life to Latin American affairs, he is not known for his defense of our continent's interests. Because he is a trade expert, it was expected that, along with his ambassadorial appointment, the delicate relationship between the two countries would change course,

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gradually leaving the drug trafficking issue behind—an issue that so obsessed the previous Republican administration—making way for free trade initiatives and an open market. However, things did not change. On the contrary, the U.S. hardened its position against our country. Nothing less could be expected from an ambassador who, before arriving in Colombia, was rejected as the U.S. ambassador to Brazil because of his harsh opposition to the coffee pact, which also seriously affected Colombia's economy.

After all, no more could be expected of the representative of a country that pressed for the reformation of our legal system, imposed on Colombia the reduction of sentences as tools with which to stem the power of the drug lords, and forced us to fumigate our lands as the only means of eradicating illegal crops, and only then did this country notice that the strategy had failed. The teacher made a mistake and the student flunked.

Our country is being asked to meet more demands and make more sacrifices in the struggle against drug trafficking, under penalty of being admonished worldwide, while the country's trade development is being hindered by obstacles that stand in the way of its exports. With this contradictory strategy, what more can the United States ask for?

Samper Acknowledges State's Role in Trujillo Violence

PA0202152295 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Feb 95

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the commission's investigation into the massacre were suprising and sad. But Colombian President Ernesto Samper's political position, in acknowledging the state's responsibility in the Trujillo massacre and asking for the forgiveness of all Colombian children, was a welcome surprise to those in attendance, especially the international Observers. The president's speech was met with sustained applause.

[Begin Samper recording] As president of Colombia, I accept the Colombian state's responsibility for the actions, or omissions thereof, of public servants in the matter of the violent acts that occurred in Trujillo between 1980 and 1990. As president of Colombia, I accept, in defense of international human rights, the responsibility which may correspond to the state for the serious infractions committed by public servants during the development of these same events. As president of Colombia, I accept the financial responsibility stemming from the serious actions, or omissions thereof, by the state.

I hope that the attitude we assume today will serve as an example to all Colombian public servants as to my administration's unwavering commitment to respect and to have human rights respected in Colombia.

Finally, I hope that our children, when they have at last breathed the air of peace, will some day forgive us for having felt so much hatred when we had the right to so much hope. Thank you very much. [applause]

[Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 1755 GMT on 1 February reports in a 475 word Bogota-datelined report on Samper's speech: "Today the Colombian Government removed Army Colonel Antonio Urena from the Armed Forces. An investigating commission accused Col. Urena of having links with drug traffickers and paramilitary groups that during the past few years murdered 107 people in the southern locality of Trujillo."]

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Comments on Cumana Summit

PA0402025795 Quito Radio Network in Spanish 0101 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Statement by President Sixto Duran-Ballen to unidentified local and international reporters at the Carondelet Presidential Palace in Quito; broadcast in progress—live]

[FBIS Translated Text]...the attitude of the Venezuelan people was truly impressive. The people of Cumana and from other parts of the country who had gone to participate in the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sucre, lined the avenue all along the several-kilometer-long route from the airport to the hotel. The presidential summit was only one of the events of that commemoration. The Venezuelans lined the avenue and applauded and cheered the Ecuadoran delegation and shouted cries of "Ecuador" almost similar to the ones that have been heard here.

The reporters who were accompanying me were witnesses—I do not know if some of the ones who accompanied me are here—but those who did could be faithful witnesses that from the first night, it was very satisfying to receive the support of the Venezuelan people. Yesterday, some joint activities were held by several presidents. In the morning, the other presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, and who else? Oh yes, Panama, pardon me. They arrived with very little difference in time. At approximately 1400 or 1500 hours in the afternoon, several activities were held. The principal one was the study of the reform that had been approved in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, by the representatives of the various country members of the Bolivarian summit.

The foreign ministers of the respective countries had voiced their conformity. Yesterday, however, when the document was read, the Venezuelan foreign minister explained that there had been several reforms that were not truly significant but which had been introduced to those approved by the foreign ministers and that since we had to approve a document that would be accepted by all, he would read it. After he read it, during a restricted

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session of the presidents and foreign ministers or deputy foreign ministers who were attending, I asked for the floor.

I stated first that since that document had been prepared long before the events of 11 January, I thought that it could not be signed but that there should be a recognition of the situation that had emerged.

Then a discussion followed, and I said I would not sign that declaration as long as there was no paragraph of introduction. It was agreed eventually to sign a separate document, which could not be signed by the representative of Peru, the Peruvian ambassador, because as you know the president did not attend. Therefore, it was not advisable that the Ecuadoran president sign it.

Then, it was decided that the other four presidents issue a declaration, a copy of the text of which will be handed out to you later to ensure you will make it public to Ecuadoran citizens. I do not know, Mr. Foreign Minister, if the copies are already being made, because we should be able to distribute them among the journalists.

The four presidents met on the morning of 3 February. They were thoughtful enough not to ask me to attend the meeting. I brought a copy of this document, because it was delivered to me very late yesterday and was signed by the four presidents. When I was leaving for the airport, the other presidents were going to attend other social events. I believe my presence here was necessary and did not stay there. The copy of the resolution issued by the four presidents and signed on the morning of 3 February that will be handed out to you does not have their signatures. However, I made sure it is an authentic copy of the document signed by the four presidents.

In this second document, the presidents were more concerned about the situation that continued to spread and worsen; they again called on the two countries and, more than anything else, on the guarantor countries to expedite the drafting of a document on a cease-fire acceptable to the two countries. In addition, they suggested that if a high-level technical commission made up of the Andean countries was necessary, they will consent to immediately form it and help the two nations.

I went ahead and told the presidents that I accepted the agreement; that I pointed out that on the night of 30 January, we, the guarantor countries, and the two countries had already agreed on the text of the document; and that the only thing missing from the 30 January document was the time in which the cease-fire was to go into effect. Beginning at that time, Peru had already introduced many reforms to the many ways we and the guarantor countries had reached agreement on the document that was going to be signed with the approval of our two countries. We are still working on this cease-fire; it hardly seems possible. Five days have gone by since the guarantor countries and the two countries drafted the first copy of the agreement. I repeat: the only thing missing from the document was the time, because Peru was supposed to tell us what time was convenient for them to implement the cease-fire.

This issue is undoubtedly taking too long; this situation is becoming drawn out. I repeat: We are not the aggressors here; we did not attack a single town or a single Peruvian detachment. I stressed it to the presidents in Cumana and at an international news conference. None of those present at the news conference could tell me, at my request, of a single Peruvian town that could have been attacked by our troops, while our towns have been repeatedly attacked.

Aside from the implications of this report on (Los Penones), I want to bring a few other aspects to your attention. Today I had a very remarkable and emotional experience. After mass, there was an outdoor meeting at the park where the statue of Marshal Sucre is located. By the way, we have a replica of that statue at the entrance of [word indistinct], at the intersection of Moran-Valverde and Los Libertadores Avenues here in Quito. President Caldera donated this replica during his previous administration. The national Congress held a session in that park across from that statue. The two chambers were present, and a large audience gathered there. When the presidents arrived, we were all welcomed by applause. Later, when each of us was laying a wreath, I received tremendous applause. This did not happen because of me or my position but because I was there representing all of you and our country. To me this action symbolized the support of Venezuela and the Venezuelan people for Ecuador in this difficult situation.

Later, after the president of Congress took his place, the four presidents—those of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama—gave formal speeches. President Caldera closed the meeting with his scheduled speech. On several occasions my speech was interrupted by applause, and at the end of my speech, all the legislators rose. This—and I reiterate—was not for any personal reasons but was a reflection of the Venezuelans' empathy for our country. Perhaps many of you saw on television the people standing up on their seats [words indistinct]. Those people were all members of the Venezuelan Congress standing up, thus showing their support for Ecuador through their presence and attitude. Those who accompanied me in Cumana can tell you the same.

I have not missed any opportunity—I met with the international media on at least two occasions—to clarify that Ecuador has not retreated. I explained to the international media that repeated Peruvian reports that Ecuadoreans had been dislodged from several locations are not true. If you scanned Peruvian newspapers on 29 January, you would read that Ecuadoreans were dislodged from at least three locations. The interesting thing is that if we had been dislodged back then, we must have retaken those locations this morning. According to a news report, we were dislodged from those very three locations. No Ecuadoreans were dislodged from their post on 28 January or today.

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No Ecuadoran soldier has retreated; no Ecuadoran soldier has taken a step backward. Our dear fellow citizens have remained at their posts. Reports to the contrary are false. Perhaps the Peruvian reports that we had been evicted from those areas were an attempt to demoralize us and create a feeling of false triumph.

I also took the opportunity to tell the presidents, their advisers, and members of the media about the inapplicability...[pauses] the meaning of inapplicability.... [pauses] Let's forget about that word. Besides, I am a bit hoarse.

The geographic situation has been explained to the presidents, to their advisers, and to the media. Right now in Rio de Janeiro, the commission of guarantors, our representatives, and those of Peru are trying to reach an agreement following a great deal of conversation and consultation. I ask God to guide the presidents of both countries because this is costing human lives. This is a tremendous retreat from what we talked about at Clinton's summit in Miami a few weeks ago. It is a tremendous retreat, and I have reminded people in various places that President Fujimori said to us at one of the summits that it was time to replace tanks with tractors to increase production. He said it was time to replace rifles and other weapons with tools that would help us increase production in our nations. I once again ask President Fujimori to tell us where the sincerity of that statement has gone.

I believe Ecuador has demonstrated that we are united and that we remain in our positions. Ecuadoran soldiers know that the Ecuadoran people are behind them, supporting them. On behalf of those who cannot be there, we ask them not to take a single step backward. Good night. [applause]

Government Reacts to Talks With Guarantor States

Agrees to Military Observers

PA0302195495 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1724 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A review of today's events reveals that on the diplomatic front the Ecuadoran Government is conducting intense negotiations, while on the military front the Ecuadoran Armed Forces have firmly held their positions in the face of attacks by Peruvian troops.

The Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry has announced that the government has agreed to the deployment of military observers on the battlefront, a measure suggested by the guarantor countries. A similar response is expected from the Peruvian Foreign Ministry. In the event that the proposal is actually implemented, the military observers would be able to confirm the falseness of Lima's charges that the Ecuadorans are the aggressors.

Ongoing demonstrations are being staged outside the presidential palace in support of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces. These demonstrations have gone on continually for approximately one week. Today the number of demonstrators increased because more high school and elementary school children, as well as representatives of popular organizations, came to the plaza. The demonstrators—singing the (?Apachisa) anthem, staging marches, and shouting: Long live Ecuador!—continue to support the Duran-Ballen administration and the Ecuadoran Armed Forces.

Foreign Ministry Notes 'Dangerous Delay'

PA0402191595 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1746 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Quito states that Ecuador, concerned about a dangerous delay in the search for an immediate end to border hostilies with Peru, has issued an appeal for greater efforts in finalizing a peace accord that has yet to be agreed upon.

Ecuador expects that the tangible obstacles and problems encountered so far will stop once and for all, enabling a settlement of the basic problem—namely, the disruption of peace on the continent.

The communique, which reflects Ecuador's impatience over the protracted diplomatic negotiations, was issued as mediation efforts by four countries in Rio de Janeiro were recessed.

Diplomatic representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States met with the Ecuadoran and Peruvian deputy foreign ministers on Tuesday [31 January] and began five days of tortuous mediation as demanded by their roles as guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which put an end to the war between the two Andean countries in 1942.

The efforts, which were recessed early this morning, should resume this afternoon. An agreement in principle for an immediate cease-fire along the tense Amazon border, which has yet to be demarcated, remains in effect since Thursday morning, awaiting an official endorsement by the governments in Quito and Lima.

However, Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen has stated that his Peruvian counterpart, Alberto Fujimori, is responsible for the delay in reaching the much-hoped-for cease-fire. Peru is postponing the issue to gain time, he said in an impromptu statement broadcast to Ecuador by a radio and television network on Friday. [passage omitted]

Senacom Highlights Peru's Motives

PA0502011995 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2048 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Report by Edwin Chamorro from the Presidential Palace in Quito—live]

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[FBIS Translated Text] This is an official report issued by the State Communications National Secretariat [Senacom] at the Presidential Palace. This morning and during part of the afternoon, there was practically no news on what is happening along the border in connection with the military confrontation. There have been no ample reports on the events in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, either.

This morning, however, the four ambassadors from the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol came to the Presidential Palace. After a meeting that lasted approximately 60 minutes, they left without making any statement.

A communique issued by Senacom reports the following: In a revealing statement on the motives for Peru's inflexibility, Peruvian Ambassador Antonio Belaunde Moreira, adviser of the delegation attending the talks held at the Itamaraty Palace in Rio de Janeiro, stated that Peru has hardened its stance beyond what is desirable for diplomatic purposes owing to the evolution of the domestic political situation in Peru and the pressure exerted by the Armed Forces, which are demanding there be no cease-fire.

The ambassador, who is the son of former president Fernando Belaunde Terry, stated in an interview for Radio Programas del Peru, that if the internal political debate had allowed it, if there had been more consensus, the negotiations would have been easier. The diplomat acknowledged: by adopting an extremely hard stance we run the risk of wearing out the mediators, who in this case are helping Peru and Ecuador. We are aware that it is important to reach an agreement as soon as possible. This meeting has been very difficult. We had thought the problem was going to be resolved in one night of negotiations, but today, if I am not mistaken, we are on the fourth day.

When asked about the progress of the negotiations, he replied: Ambassador Eduardo Ponce held an extensive meeting outside the Itamaraty Palace with the Ecuadoran deputy minister, and much progress was made in direct negotiations. We were not, however, able to settle everything. That is why we are requesting the assistance of the guarantor countries, but things got complicated owing to our domestic political situation. This fully reflects the stance Peru has taken to the table of negotiations. Whereas Ecuador is seeking accords that will allow a cease-fire, while not undermining its stance, Peru's diplomacy has bogged down the problem, since it is tied and subordinate to the Armed Forces' decisions and the current electoral situation.

Diplomatic Sources on Peruvian Obstructions

PA0502000595 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2051 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Diplomatic sources have said today that while Ecuador has accepted all mediation efforts seeking the immediate reestablishment of peace, the government of President Alberto Fujimori has rejected them. It is evident that the Peruvian Government wants to obstruct such efforts to gain time for its military offensive. The sources recalled that so far, 10 days since the beginning of the military attacks against Ecuadoran territory, at least 10 mediation offers have been made and many international voices have spoken out in favor of a peaceful solution. Among such efforts they highlighted the efforts of OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria, who tried to reach a swift solution by shuttling between meetings with the presidents of Ecuador and Peru. The effort was cut short because of the insensitivity demonstrated by Peru. Fujimori welcomed Gaviria out of politeness but rejected his intervention based on the argument that any effort should come through the guarantor nations of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

In light of the events, Ecuador requested an urgent meeting of the OAS Permanent Council and has agreed to the general call by all of the American nations for a cease-fire as soon as possible. Despite Peru' opposition, the Council heard Ecuador's request for a consultation meeting of foreign ministers and left the OAS president to decide on the date and place for the meeting.

Other people who have spoken out recently include Pope John Paul II, the presidents of Central America, and the presidents of the Bolivarian nations, but all their efforts have fallen on the infertile soil of Peru's unbending policy.

National Security Council Studying Proposal

PA0502033695 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2213 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Report by Edwin Chamorro from the Presidential Palace in Quito—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is part of the information, which is scarce by the way, received today, 4 February.

The members of the National Security Council are currently in session studying or perhaps they have already studied the proposal on what is being discussed in Brazil regarding a possible solution to the border dispute with Peru. The members of the National Security Council include: President Sixto Duran-Ballen; first Vice President Alberto Dahik; Congress President Heinz Moeller; the president of the Supreme Court of Justice; the Ecuadoran foreign minister, who is the director of [words indistinct]; the government minister who is the director of [words indistinct]; the finance minister, [words indistinct]; the chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces; the defense minister, who is the head of the military front; the president of the monetary board; and the secretary general of the National Security Council.

We also want to bring to your attention that the ambassadors of the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol—the United States, Brazil, Argentina and

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Chile—visited the government palace this morning. They stayed there for approximately an hour and then left. No information was disclosed on the topics discussed.

Leoro: Security Council Following Talks

PA0502002595 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2303 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Report by Edwin Chamorro from the Presidential Place in Quito—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are interrupting the programming of Voz de los Andes radio station because a few seconds ago, Foreign Minister Galo Leoro made the following statement to newsmen on Ecuador's territorial dispute with Peru after a meeting of the National Security Council. Let us listen to his important statement.

[Begin Leoro recording] I must inform you and all news media that this morning, and basically until now, the National Security Council met for the purpose of following the course of the talks in being held Rio de Janeiro to seek a cease-fire and a peaceful solution to the problem we are facing. The National Security Council also agreed to meet again at 2000 hours [0100 GMT] if the talks in Rio de Janeiro continue. They will even continue tomorrow, so it has not been possible to establish deadlines, as some news dispatches from Rio de Janeiro speculated this afternoon. I am not in the capacity to disclose the (?issues discussed) at this time, and I am only hoping that, with the cooperation of all the countries involved, we may be able to reach a solution appropriate to the circumstances and, mostly, to maintain peace between the two countries. That is all I can tell you today, thank you. [end recording]

Diplomatic Sources Cited on Peace Proposal

PA0502135295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0640 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 4 Feb (EFE)—The peace proposal presented to Peru and Ecuador, which Lima has already approved but is still pending Quito's acceptance, makes the concept of "demilitarization" in the conflict zone more flexible and incorporates the concept of "demobilization," diplomatic sources have told EFE.

In sum, the proposal consists of demilitarizing the conflict zone in various phases, the first of which would be "demobilization," which would not represent a withdrawal or retreat according to the same sources, who asked not to be identified.

The proposal was presented in Rio de Janeiro on 4 February to the deputy foreign ministers of Ecuador and Peru by their colleagues from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States, guarantor countries of the demarcation treaty signed by Lima and Quito in 1942.

Peruvian Vice President Enrique Ponce announced in Rio de Janeiro on 4 February that he had endorsed the proposal after consulting his government and hoped the Ecuadoran Government will do likewise.

Minister on Reports of Peru Flexibility

PA0502195795 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1803 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Report by Liz Borja from the Presidency in Quito—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Greetings to all our listeners in Ecuador and the world, especially for all those Ecuadoreans listening to us at the border. We want to send warm greetings this afternoon to soldiers in Soldado Monge, Lieutenant Ortiz, Coangos, Condor Mirador, Tihuinza, Cueva de los Tayos, Base Sur, Patuca. We express to them our solidarity and concern about the current situation at the Ecuadoran border.

After these special greetings, here is the information we have for you from the Presidency. The State Communications National Secretariat has issued a report that reads:

A few minutes before a new meeting of the National Security Council at 1030 today, Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Galo Leoro confirmed that talks continue in Brazil in an effort to reach an agreement for a cease-fire and a peaceful solution to the problem with Peru.

Incidentally, as we previously reported, it has been said the talks seem to have failed.

Regarding reports received from abroad in the sense that an agreement has been reached and that Peru has adopted a more flexible position, Foreign Minister Leoro added that we hope those reports are true but that no final agreement has been reached.

Diplomatic experts have said those reports are part of a campaign to make the international public believe that Ecuador has adopted an intransigent position and to justify an armed attack against a peaceful country as Ecuador, which must defend itself with dignity.

Meanwhile, military sources have reported there were new attacks yesterday against Ecuadoran positions that were totally repelled according to the State Communications National Secretariat. The new attacks clearly contradict the Peruvian diplomatic message in the sense that it has allegedly adopted a more flexible position.

Ministry Bulletin: Talks To Continue in Brasilia

PA0502230495 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2135 GMT 5 Feb 95

["Press Bulletin No. 85" issued by the Foreign Ministry in Quito on 5 February—read by reporters Marco Antonio Bravo and Elizabeth Borja at the Presidency]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding reports from Lima relayed by domestic media saying that Peru has already signed the latest peace proposal by Argentina, Brazil,

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Chile, and the United States at the meeting under way in Rio de Janeiro, the Foreign Ministry states that it is illogical that Ambassador Ponce, who is the Peruvian delegate, could have signed this proposal when the parties involved were not informed about it until today at around 1600 Rio de Janeiro time [1800 GMT].

The proposals and counterproposals exchanged at the Rio de Janeiro meeting, in view of their delicacy and complexity, have been examined at National Security Council [CNS] meetings attended by the president and vice president, the National Congress president, the Supreme Court president, the foreign minister, the defense minister, senior military officials, the Monetary Board president, and other ministers who comprise the domestic front.

Instructions continue to be followed by the Ecuadoran delegation, which also means that Ecuador's actions in Rio de Janeiro are the result of a unified policy developed by the CNS.

The Foreign Ministry reiterates that the Peruvian delay with regard to a cease-fire has resulted in continued attacks on Ecuadoran detachments and the loss of human life and other losses attributable to the armed conflict.

In order to overcome the difficulties which have surfaced, the Foreign Ministry has requested that the meeting be extended in an effort to properly consider the proposal. Therefore, talks will continue in Brasilia tomorrow.

Secretary Comments on Negotiations With Peru

PA0602141095 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Interview with Enrique Proano, government communications secretary, by an unidentified reporter; place not given; from "The Voz Andes Newscast"—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Reporter] Why did the negotiations between Ecuador and Peru in Rio de Janeiro fail, if we can call them a failure?

[Proano] There has definitely been no such failure as you, who have been at the Presidency for days, were told. What has happened is that the talks were transferred from Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia. I must say in this regard the Ecuadoran Government suggested from the very start that these talks be held in Brasilia, headquarters of the Brazilian Government. The Peruvian Government objected to this suggestion, however, one of the many objections of the Peruvian Government, and it was agreed to hold them in Rio de Janeiro.

After marathon-like sessions, they realized the advisability of transferring such talks to Brazil, because there are more logistical facilities there, as it was announced. Thus, I would like to emphasize this point: The negotiations have not failed, and the guarantor countries have confirmed this statement.

What is happening is that Peru has wanted to impose a declaration text, a number of conditions to accept a cease-fire, and Ecuador could not accept in any way this aspiration of our neighbor to the south. The Peruvian Government has carried out multiple unfair actions, for example, its plan to lay claim to territory, to evict Ecuadoreans from the national defense sites, because they are maintaining a formidable offensive against Ecuadoran forces...

[Reporter, interrupting] And they work based on fait accompli.

[Proano] And work based on fait accompli as was done in 1941, when we were forced to sign the Rio de Janeiro Protocol while Peruvian troops were in possession of Ecuadoran territory.

[Reporter] The country's public opinion is following with expectation certain actions taken in the country, and I understand they approve of them all. In the beginning of this conflict, we somewhat criticized the lack of more smooth information, but things have changed as time passed. The international community is pleased with how the country is informing the world and the facilities given to the international media to have a broader coverage. I personally congratulate you for all this work being done for the good of the country.

[Proano] Thank you very much. We knew well before the conflict started there would be a repetition of what happened in 1981, when an immense disinformation campaign virtually overwhelmed Ecuador; thus, we took the appropriate precautions. I specialized in communications systems. I designed, based on one-hour intervals, an information system—and with the approval of the president of the Republic and other authorities, it was implemented from the Presidency of the Republic—to objectively inform the Ecuadoran and world public on the conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

I want to stress the truth issue, because, for example, Manuel Maldonado wrote in a commentary yesterday in a Guayaquil newspaper that aside from the infrastructure and the virtues of this communications system, Ecuador is acting truthfully and has gained an interesting position in Latin America and the world in this so-called information war.

[Reporter] Could we say we are winning the information war?

[Proano] I should not say this remark, because it would be presumptuous and a position not in keeping with the situation the country is facing. There are, however, international news dispatches stating we are winning the information war.

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Several aspects must be clear. You, who have been so close to the conflict and information, notice how, for the past eight days, from Saturday of the past week, not the most recent Saturday, Peru announced it had evicted us from our positions. On Monday, I think on Wednesday, and even yesterday they repeated the information, and this statement also has repercussions in the international press. I was in Caracas for 48 hours with the president of the Republic in another diplomatic offensive, and large Caracas newspaper headlines also read: Ecuador Evicted From Positions by the Peruvian Armed Forces.

Therefore, we have been absolutely careful to counter this attitude of disinformation by the Peruvian Government and its Armed Forces, but there is also double talk.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ponce, who is leading the negotiations in Brazil, has said they have already signed the peace agreement, and that point is a tremendous [word indistinct]. How can they have signed the peace accord if they continue to bomb and attack Ecuadoran border posts with everything they have? Therefore, I want to state before the national and international audience of this program that they must not allow themselves to be deceived by this type of information, which is not real, is not true, is not objective, and harms those who produce and disseminate the same.

[Reporter] Ecuador is on its feet today more than ever, as is demonstrated by the diplomatic offensive of our countries, especially with President Duran-Ballen's trip. By the way, had this trip been planned, because we at the palace were all surprised to hear of this trip by Duran-Ballen?

[Proano] There can be no exact and accurate planning when there is a conflict such as the one Ecuador is experiencing. Ecuador has been working clearly on three fronts: the military front, obviously in the defense of the national territory, the diplomatic front, and the information front. Regarding the diplomatic front, notwithstanding the president's recent surgery, he has remained practically at the head of the three fronts. Regarding the diplomatic front in particular, he has been practically leading, together with the foreign minister, the negotiations being held in Rio de Janeiro and other actions at the OAS and other international forums. In addition, he decided to travel to Cumana to attend the summit of Bolivarian countries. I believe this was an excellent strategy.

Regarding your question on this latest trip, given the recent incidents, the evolution of events, it was considered it was indispensable for the Ecuadoran president to travel to Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. He made this decision himself and yesterday began that trip, which will last until tonight and tomorrow morning at the most. The purpose of the trip is to make the presidents of these three guarantor countries understand what the problem basically is.

In this case, Peruvian disinformation has existed since 1942, when the Rio de Janeiro Protocol was imposed on us. The belief internationally is that there is a border treaty that is absolutely valid and that there is a small problem regarding the delimitation of 78 km, and that statement is not true. As you know, the problem lies in the nonexistence of a geographical landmark, which prevents the implementation of the protocol along a 78-km stretch but which involves a much bigger area. This is the situation. The president decided to make this trip as we go along and in order to intensify the Ecuadoran Government's diplomatic offensive in light of this problem.

[Reporter] We have 30 seconds to conclude this interview, and as you know, this radio station is heard throughout the world, including the capital of Peru and all cities of that country. It is also heard in the border region, where our soldiers are defending our territory. What would be the words of encouragement you would like to say to them at this difficult juncture?

[Proano] I would like to tell them that all Ecuadoreans are with them, because we are in the right. We are defending our national territory. A small country as ours is not an aggressor country; it has never been an aggressor. It is being attacked, and our soldiers must rest assured we are working on all fronts to support the courageous job they are carrying out.

Duran-Ballen Makes Impromptu Appearance in Telethon

PA0502045495 Paris AFP in Spanish 0218 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 4 Feb (AFP)—During an impromptu radio-televised appearance to thank his compatriots for participating in a telethon that lasted 10 consecutive hours this Saturday, Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen maintained that it was not his country that sought the current crisis with Peru.

The telethon was aimed at soliciting aid for Ecuadorans who live near the border with Peru where soldiers of the two countries are fighting over a strip of land that lacks border markings.

The president said that the telethon, carried by all television and radio stations simultaneously, "has been a demonstration that Ecuador is united at these moments."

He added: "Ecuador feels the anguish of those human beings who are risking their lives for their fellowmen every moment, as a sign of their noble nature."

He reported that he has spent almost the entire day in a meeting with members of the National Security Council and that he will meet with them again this evening to follow the Rio de Janeiro negotiations.

In the meantime, General Paco Moncayo, the Ecuadoran Army's chief of staff, toured the area of conflict to personally assess the situation and give pertinent orders, reporters who accompanied him stated.

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On the other side of the border, in the slope region, labor leaders, representatives of the Catholic Church and other churches, human rights organizations, and women's organizations of Ecuador failed in their attempt to meet with leaders of similar organizations in Peru at the binational bridge that unites Huaquillas (Ecuador) with Aguas Verdes (Peru).

According to the organizers, the meeting had been arranged ahead of time.

Journalist Pepe Guillen of the newspaper EL CORREO of Machala, capital of El Oro Province, on the coastal region bordering Peru, informed AFP that they were told at the site of the meeting that the Peruvian delegates who had agreed to the binational meeting were unable to attend because the Lima Government banned them from going.

However, Fausto Dutan and Juan Andrango, presidents of two of the three labor federations that make up the United Workers' Front announced that they will persist in their initiative and will seek the help of the International Labor Organization to hold the binational meeting. They also expressed their predisposition to go to Peru.

The Communications Secretariat disclosed that, to avoid further repercussions of this conflict on the national economic program, the Ecuadoran Government announced that effective Monday, a massive tax collection effort will be started, with the support of 5,000 students from the last two years of accounting school.

Those who owe the Treasury will be able to renegotiate their debts, the Secretariat added.

In addition, petroleum, banana, and shrimp, the country's main exports, were being shipped normally.

The 240,000 barrels of oil per day were being shipped normally, the Esmeraldas refinery, in the northern coast, was working without any problems, and so was the Paute Hydroelectric Plant, Energy and Mines Minister Galo Abril reported this Saturday. Abril also urged his compatriots to save energy.

Abril explained that although fuel reserves are normal, energy conservation will permit the suspension of the thermoelectric plants and thus, prevent the citizens' use of gas oil, which could serve the military.

Duran-Ballen Departs for Brazil, Argentina, Chile

PA0502192595 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1833 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Bulletin issued by the State Communications National Secretariat at the Presidential Press Room in Quito on 5 February—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sixto Duran-Ballen, the constitutional president of Ecuador, left at 1330 for Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, where he will meet with the presidents of these three countries.

Duran-Ballen will personally explain to his colleagues the Ecuadoran position on Peruvian aggressions, as he did to the Bolivarian presidents. This visit by the president will promote better understanding about the process that has led to the most recent confrontations.

He will explain Ecuador's permanent position in support of an unconditional cease-fire and its current position on the existing alternatives that must be defined soon.

Foreign Ministry Bulletin Reports Demonstration at UN

PA0502222695 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2030 GMT 5 Feb 95

["Press Bulletin No. 83" issued by the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry in Quito on 5 February—read by reporter Elizabeth Borja at the Presidency]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ecuadoreans residing in the United States have organized to express their support for the national government in view of the crisis affecting the country following Peru's aggression against our southeastern border.

According to the Foreign Ministry, many citizens have contacted the Ecuadoran consulates to offer their services to the military in the event that the Armed Forces require reservists.

In New York City, the Ecuadoran community organized a demonstration outside UN Headquarters. The demonstrators are sending the United Nations a document on the history of the current military conflict between the two countries. The Ecuadoran community residing in New York has decided to support as much as possible the government's position at the United Nations in the event that this organization's intervention is needed to find a peaceful solution to the recurring border problem and for preserving peace in the American continent.

Ministry Notes Central American Parliament Declaration

PA0302203595 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Bulletin No. 70 issued by the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry in Quito on 3 February]

[FBIS Translated Text] A declaration issued today by the Central American Parliament, headquartered in Guatemala City, considers that the problem which has emerged between Ecuador and Peru represents an issue that disrupts international relations between American states. It urges the governments in the two countries to use those procedures which they consider most appropriate to settle the problem as quickly as possible.

The text of the declaration says that the member-states of this organization are duty bound to seek joint solutions to their mutual problems through united and solidary actions. They have also decided to recommend

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that the Governments of Peru and Ecuador reassert their conviction that peace is essential to their peoples' harmonious coexistence and development; that they agree to settle their dispute in order to maintain, protect, and consolidate peace between themselves; and that they renounce the use of force, threats, or any other type of aggressive pressure and any action or omission incompatible with the principles of international law.

Foreign Ministry Bulletin on SELA Appeal for Solution

PA0302200095 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Bulletin No. 71 issued by the Foreign Ministry; read by reporter Mauricio Carpio at Carondelet Palace—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Latin American Economic System, SELA, which has its headquarters in Caracas, has issued a communique stating its fervent hope that a relationship of peace and harmony be quickly restored and consolidated between Ecuador and Peru.

The communique, signed by Permanent Secretary Salvador Arriola, adds that peace between the two states is essential so they may continue to strengthen the subregional and regional cooperation process, as well as the economic and social progress of their people, and achieve a strong position against the challenges imposed by the world market's increasing globalization and competitiveness.

Minister: Conflict With Peru Not Adversely Affecting Trade

PA0502173795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1545 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 5 Feb (EFE)—The armed conflict that has been going on between the armies of Ecuador and Peru for the past 11 days is not adversely affecting trade with the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States), Jose Vicente Maldonado, industry, commerce, and integration minister, has said.

The Ecuadoran minister has said "there is no problem" in the trade relations with those four countries, which are mediating in the search for a cease-fire, in their capacity as guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, a treaty which established in 1942 the border limits between Ecuador and Peru.

Maldonado has said "we have the economic complementary agreement signed with Argentina in 1994. Concerning Brazil and Chile, we have already signed a free trade agreement that will go into effect in 1995."

Concerning the United States, the minister has said it is Ecuador's principal trading partner.

Maldonado added the military conflict with Peru over a disputed territory in the Amazon region "does not adversely affect the industrial sector either," because Ecuador supplies itself through bilateral and multilateral agreements signed with other nations.

In statements published today by the Quito newspaper EL COMERCIO, the minister also said trade with Peru only represents 1 percent of Ecuador's imports and exports.

"What we could have bought from Peru in the past, we can obtain from other countries such as Argentina, Chile, the United States, or Europe," Maldonado has said, adding Ecuador's trade policy "does not make us dependent on one single source."

Secretariat: Peruvian Army Forcibly Using Indians

PA0502170695 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1534 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Bulletin issued by the State Communications National Secretariat on 5 February; place not given—read by Marco Antonio Bravo]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have a last minute bulletin from the Presidency:

Reports from the southeastern front of the Ecuadoran border where Peruvian troops continue to attack Ecuadoran military garrisons state the Peruvian Army has forced Indians in the Amazon region to participate in the conflict by making them perform dangerous chores, such as clearing paths and trails to facilitate the advancement of regular troops to places they believe could be occupied by the defenders of Ecuadoran detachments.

The reports state Peruvian Indians are forced to detect possible mine fields, a task which makes them risk their lives. According to the report, Indians must walk in front of the regular troops and, therefore, are the first ones to fall when Ecuadoran forces repel the attacks.

Because these individuals have not been mobilized or officially incorporated into the combat forces, Peru would reportedly be violating the 1949 Geneva Convention and other international instruments regulating the activities of combatants during war.

This attitude assumed by the Peruvian Army is totally against ethics and international regulations on military conflicts. The sacrifice of civilians who have not been mobilized but who are being, quote, used, unquote, by the Peruvian forces could increase if there is hand-to-hand combat.

The Geneva Convention specifies in its chapter on military operations that the Armed Forces do not have unlimited rights in selecting methods and means of combat. It clearly specifies that civilians must not be exposed to the dangers of military operations.

This was a bulletin from the State Communications National Secretariat dated 5 February 1995.

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Former UN Secretary General Questions Cease-Fire

PA0302153995 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1445 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar is demanding that President Fujimori be more energetic and end the conflict once and for all. The former UN secretary general paradoxically wants Peru to carry out an indiscriminate attack, and he questions the cease-fire. He believes now is the time to demonstrate Peru's strength opposite Ecuador.

A news bulletin reacting to the previous news item states the following: One of the most deplorable incidents observed during the Ecuadoran-Peruvian conflict is the metamorphosis of former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who, once a high-ranking international official entrusted with promoting peace and respect for international law, has now extolled conquest and aggression. In an interview with an Italian journalist on 1 February, Perez de Cuellar said Ecuador has invaded the territories we Peruvians conquered in 1942.

The United Nations does not meddle. This expression by the former UN secretary general and current Peruvian presidential candidate proves the war unleashed by Peru in 1941 was indeed a war of conquest. Thus, the Rio de Janeiro Protocol was an unequivocal result of the aggression at that time and which repeats itself today.

Congress President Moeller Urges National Unity

PA0502012795 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2335 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Report by Edwin Chamorro from the Presidential Palace in Quito—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago, the National Security Council concluded its meeting at the Palace of Government, as we reported 20 minutes ago. At the end of the meeting, National Congress President Heinz Moeller made important remarks to reporters on the content of the National Security Council meeting. Let us listen to the remarks by Moeller, who is a member of the National Security Council, and his message to Ecuadorans.

[Begin recording] [Moeller] [passage indistinct] The guarantor countries have not produced a formula sufficiently equitable to be acceptable to Ecuador and Peru. Up to now, they have been leaning toward maintaining Peru's irrational, unjust, and absurd stance.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Moeller] A solution with dignity achieved through dialogue and peaceful means, but if [words indistinct] Peru has to do a very simple thing, namely, stop shooting at us. We are defending ourselves and will not yield on that [passage indistinct] I think it is quite the opposite. The latest news I can give you is that the guarantors decided to continue working whereas [words indistinct] they said they would not. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] Does the new document reflect that stance favorable to Peru?

[Moeller] It is not sufficiently [words indistinct] to Ecuadoran interests. Thank you. [end recording]

That is what Heinz Moeller told reporters at the conclusion of the National Security Council meeting. Afterward, he made a general appeal, on behalf of the National Security Council, that will certainly be broadcast in a few minutes by the radio and television stations carrying a telethon. Let us listen to his message to the people of Ecuador.

[Being Moeller recording] I cannot say I am surprised. I am once again immensely proud to be an Ecuadorean, as all of us are, and to know that the Ecuadoran character, the Ecuadoran soul stands more than ever in solidarity with those brave soldiers fighting on the border for all of us, their relatives, and the persons living on the border who are suffering the hard consequences of the armed conflict. We are fighting in our front, the internal front, the diplomatic front, the military front. It is up to all of you Ecuadoreans to step forward with your contribution—big or small, it does not matter—because it signifies your participation in this struggle for national honor and dignity. We are standing tall in the face of the aggression. We are standing tremendously and firmly tall. It is important to remain on this course. Let us see ourselves as one Ecuador, with a sole aspiration, with a sole objective. Despite widespread skepticism, I feel there are reasons to harbor hopes. That is the truth. There seems to be progress at the level of the mediating countries. International opinion is working. World opinion is siding with Ecuador. That is not sufficient, however. It is important for us to show our unity with the participation of each and every one of us, by contributing with donations. It does not matter if the contribution is big or small. One must step forward and make it known that the fatherland is [word indistinct] that we feel the profound heartbeat of our love for Ecuador. Let us move forward. [end recording]

Communique Appeals to Citizens To Save Electricity

PA0402014295 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Communique issued by the National Communications Secretariat, place and date not given; from "The Voz Andes Newscast"—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Communications Secretariat of the state has issued an appeal to the citizens regarding the measures that all Ecuadorans must take to save electricity. In view of the emergency situtation that exists in the country, the Energy and Mines Ministry, through the INECEL [Ecuadoran Institute of Electrification] has deemed it advisable to establish the

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following measures to save electricity and fuel. In order to accomplish this objective, it requires the utmost understanding and cooperation on the part of the different sectors of Ecuador. The measures that are to be applied are:

1. Observe a general saving of electricity in homes, using only essential lighting in each room of the house. The use of heaters, water heaters, and air-conditioning units must be restricted to a minimum, avoiding their use during peak hours, such as from 1800 to 0900 hours of the following day.

2. In homes and establishments of all kinds, the use of electrical appliances that are not essential and that could be a luxury must be totally restricted.

3. The use of lights for sports stadiums and domes must be totally avoided. Such activities must be conducted during the day, with natural lighting.

4. Businesses must totally reduce the use of lighting for their shop and exhibition windows and try to close down businesses no later than 1830.

5. Industries that work more than one shift daily must reduce their electricity requirements during peak hours, modifying their work schedules and recommending as much as possible working from 2100 hours until morning, thus taking advantage of the hydroelectric energy available during those hours.

Defense Minister Reviews Border Dispute

PA0302173095 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1541 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Opening statement and news conference by Defense Minister Jose Gallardo with domestic and foreign journalists and an unidentified moderator at the Latin American International Center for Advanced Journalism Studies, in Quito; broadcast in progress—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gallardo] ...the Ortiz Detachment and also the Soldado Monge Detachment, north of the Santiago River, which has been there since 1938.

General Hermoza Rios said yesterday those detachments had not been attacked by air. The destruction there is evident. We have photographs we can show, and the national and foreign media have verified this statement.

As a result of the Peruvian attacks, eight Ecuadoran soldiers died, two are missing, and 14 are seriously wounded.

Because of the jungle and very hilly terrain, casualties are not very substantial in spite of the intense bombing by airplanes and helicopters. General Hermoza Rios mentioned 43 dead Ecuadoreans. I categorically deny this. There has also been talk about 25 captured Ecuadoreans. Only two Ecuadoreans are missing. We believe they died in combat.

I am not going to speculate about the Peruvian forces' casualties. They will have to report on that matter to their country.

I want to tell you that we are maintaining all the detachments even though it was reported on 30 January they had been cleared. It was also reported yesterday that the Base Sur Detachment, also, had been cleared. I categorically deny this report.

I want to state that the two arrested Peruvians have been presented to the public opinion, without hiding anything. The delegate of the International Red Cross spoke with them yesterday.

We have facilitated this information to the media. We will continue doing so. We will allow them to go everywhere so that journalists can see the situation for themselves. I am pointing this out to establish the difference between this conduct and that of the Peruvian Armed forces, where much hermetism prevails.

To conclude, I want to tell you that in order to understand this problem we must look at its background, which I am going to briefly mention.

Our country was born to independent life with the territory given by the 1828 Guayaquil Treaty, the limits of which I will ask the colonel to point out. That Guayaquil Treaty, even though its style and content were fully valid and had been accepted and exchanged by the two countries, was stubbornly disregarded by Peru, which has advanced its forces and attacked isolated Ecuadoran detachments many times.

We come to 1941, and in an invasion prepared against an unarmed country, which had not prepared for war, it was able to occupy part of our province of El Oro and the eastern region. With the country occupied, there came the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which effected a serious reduction of the national territory. There was an essential, geographical mistake in that protocol, however, which made it nonexecutable and which should have been the object of a sincere search for a solution by both parties.

Peru, in fact, occupied the entire basin of the Cenepa River. It showed on its map that it is Peruvian territory, while we showed it as territory that had not been demarcated, a point which is the truth. This action clearly demonstrates two types of conduct. Peru has continued advancing, occupying the Cenepa River, in fact, until it reached the headwaters, an extremely small space compared to the entire basin of the Cenepa River, where our forces were located for many years. Those forces are the ones that have been attacked, and not only those but others in other sectors that were in no way in dispute. This is the truth that I submit for the consideration of the Ecuadoran people and all our brothers of the world, even of the Peruvian people.

We deeply regret the casualties being sustained, but we cannot stop defending the dignity and integrity of our

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country, whose territory has been reduced. Thank you very much. I am open to your questions.

[Moderator] Distinguished members of the Latin America and world media in general [words indistinct] the association of newspapers of our country, and the Latin American International Center for Advanced Journalism Studies want to thank the defense minister for granting this news conference. We will begin the questions. We tell the journalists who want to ask questions that we will call them in the order they have made themselves known. I cordially ask the Ecuadoran journalists to permit the international media to ask questions first; therefore, we will begin with Mr. Osvaldo Flores, from the "Cripton News" of Colombia. Where is Mr. Flores? He is here. We ask you to speak loudly, because the microphone lines were apparently disconnected when the television cameras were set up.

[Flores] [Words indistinct]

[Unidentified station announcer] The question the Colombian journalist is asking is about the many Colombians who want to join the Ecuadoran Army. Minister Gallardo replies.

[Gallardo, in progress] ...Latin American brothers who have expressed the same feeling. We hope and deeply wish that this problem does not escalate into a war.

[Moderator] Miss Claudia Pruchard, a German citizen, from the Ecuadoran-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

[Pruchard] [Words indistinct]

[Gallardo] No, miss, we have not requested this for obvious reasons.

[Announcer] She asked the minister if aid from other countries had been requested.

[Moderator, in progress] ...from Colombia's EL TIEMPO.

[EL TIEMPO] [Words indistinct]

[Announcer] He is asking whether...

[Gallardo, in progress] ...just today, when the bicentennial of the birth of a great man is being commemorated, a man who established a doctrine that a military victory does give anyone a right, a doctrine that he established precisely following the Battle of Tarqui near Cuenca, Ecuador. I believe this is a bitter coincidence. We did not start the war. Our detachments have not taken a single step forward. What they have done is defend themselves, and they have defended themselves successfully up to now.

[Moderator] The television association, the radio association, the newspaper association, and CIESPAL over these past few days have treated all Latin American journalists the same. One proof of this is that now we will offer the floor to Mr. Miguel Silvestre, a Peruvian citizen who represents Frecuencia Latina.

[Silvestre] [Words indistinct] and this point will be permanent only through military might, with our arms, with the [word indistinct] of all the Ecuadoreans united for this grand [words indistinct].

[Gallardo] That is the attitude of an Ecuadoran soldier, but it is not the policy of the Ecuadoran state. I could show you books and statements with hundreds of similar statements by Peruvian civilians and military members.

Ecuador has not arranged a confrontation. It would be absurd for a country that knows that its military might is inferior and that the number of personnel is also inferior to think about arranging a war against a neighbor. We have readied our territory and our people's spirit for defense purposes, as any other nation would do.

Can you refute this following point? The commander of the Peruvian Armed Forces in that sector urged us on 12 December to withdraw from [word indistinct], a sector where we had been staying and working most innocently. They threatened to occupy it by force. They infiltrated a four-man unit into that territory on 9 January. The patrol was captured and delivered to the Peruvian forces, thus complying with the norms of coexistence existing between the two countries. We found another patrol, 10 or 12 men, on 11 January, two days later. When they were ordered to halt, they responded by firing their arms. This action is how this problem began. This statement is my answer.

[Announcer] The defense minister has just responded to a question from a Peruvian journalist.

[Moderator] We are proud to have been able to maintain a free and democratic media in our country. We spoke with military authorities in recent days [words indistinct] Latin America and other parts of the world who have come to gather information. The next question is from Samuel Salazar, from Colombia's Emisoras Caracol Network.

[Salazar] [Words indistinct] the printed media.

[Gallardo] Yesterday's clashes. [as heard] The Ecuadoran Army has evaluated the results of our detachments' defense actions. Peru has admitted the downing of one helicopter, which produced five dead, something which we deeply regret. We have seen in the field that the three helicopters are seriously damaged.

[Moderator] Hector Zarak, from the Colombian daily EL ESPACIO.

[Zarak] [Words indistinct] some type of information. I would like to know why you say the first dead [words indistinct].

[Gallardo] We have provided all the facilities for obtaining clear information on this situation. We believe the trust of the Ecuadoran people and the world is priceless. We view it as invaluable, and we are working for this trust.

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[Moderator] Mr. Jose Marino.

[Marino] Good morning. [Words indistinct]

[Announcer] A Peruvian journalist is apparently protesting, because he is being persecuted. What will be done in connection with soldiers taken prisoners? That is the question made by the Panamericana reporter.

[Gallardo, in progress] ...to reply. The decision by the government and high command is to allow journalists to work unimpeded. We are going to check out this report of yours. I have to tell you that on no account are they decisions by the government or the Armed Forces High Command. You see, you are here asking me questions. Please repeat the second part of your question.

[Marino] [Words indistinct]

[Announcer] He is asking how are the Peruvian prisoners of war being treated.

[Gallardo] The Peruvian soldiers taken prisoners of war have even been interviewed by a delegate of the International Red Cross; the prisoners have written letters to relatives. Peru has said, however, they have taken from us 25 prisoners. We have two soldiers missing. They could be prisoners. Nevertheless, on no account has your country's military authorities allowed the Red Cross to do their work the way we allowed the Red Cross to do so in connection with the two Peruvian soldiers.

There is a big differences here. In fact, we are even investigating an incident involving one of our soldiers who was captured during the attack, something which we need to fully confirm before presenting it before the pertinent international organizations. When Peruvian forces withdrew, we found our soldier murdered; he bore signs of having been murdered. We decided this incident needs the most honest and truthful verification.

I also wish to take advantage, gentlemen, of this occasion to demonstrate the honest way we operate. According to a photograph that we have and which was shown at the talks, U.S.-made helicopters—which may have been purchased by the Peruvian Government and may now be that government's property—transported military troops to the area and then flew over the area. We made the mistake of saying the helicopters could have been provided to Peru for the struggle against drug trafficking. In all honesty, however, we immediately denied this assertion. We have no difficulty in acknowledging that this information could have created problems due to the difficulties that usually emerge under circumstances such as these.

[Moderator] We once again welcome the Peruvian colleague. We want to tell all colleagues present here that for 35 years this center has received and will continue to receive with open arms all Latin American professionals. Eight thousand Latin American professionals have made postgraduate studies here. Of course, out of these 8,000, about 100 Peruvian journalists, fellow workers, and friends have done postgraduate studies in this center.

The next person is Roberto Pastiatus, of ECO of Mexico.

[Pastiatus] Mr. Gallardo, I would like to learn the latest information you have regarding discussions on a cease-fire agreement in the predawn hours of today in Rio de Janeiro. Several international wire services report at about 1300 in Rio de Janeiro or 1000 here, more or less the time of this news conference, that there was practically a confirmation of a cease-fire. [words indistinct]

[Gallardo] The information I have, gentlemen, is that both countries, with the presence of their deputy foreign ministers and with the presence of the U.S. under secretary of state, the deputy foreign ministers from Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, are making every effort to find a solution to this problem and attain a cease-fire that will be welcome by the Armed Forces and the Ecuadoran people.

[Announcer] You are listening to HCJV [Voz de los Andes] international radio and Radio Municipal del Cultura. Another question will be asked to the minister.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Announcer] Following the attacks on the Ecuadoran detachments, where are Ecuadoran troops waiting to defend themselves in a better way, as the question was made.

[Gallardo] We are ready to repel this type of action, should it occur, but we believe it should not reoccur.

[Announcer] This is Defense Minister Jose Gallardo Roman responding a series of questions in this news conference.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Gallardo] When this problem began, we [words indistinct] a directive that can be verified. We ordered that the human rights of detainees be respected. We will continue working along these lines.

[Moderator] Peru's America Television reporter Jesus Quiroga will ask the next question.

[Quiroga] Good morning, Mr. Minister.

[Gallardo] Good day.

[Quiroga] [Words indistinct] have reported [words indistinct] area of conflict [words indistinct]. Can you please disclose where are those posts in which Ecuador remains firm, and, if possible, what is their position regarding the Condor mountain range and Cenepa River?

[Gallardo] I am going to refer to the final part of your question. I must say that our detachments of Coangos, Base Sur, Tihuinza, Cueva de los Tayos, Etza, Teniente Ortiz, and Soldado Monge, which have come under attack, remain under the absolute control of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces. Yesterday, the Pichincha Province

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chief officer visited Tihuinza. He is a trustworthy man who can vouch for this point.

[Words indistinct] the second part of your question. In the delimitation of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, a basic geographical error was found. The Protocol does not speak about the Condor mountain range. It talks about the water divide between the Zamora River. Here is where the [words indistinct] and the Santiago River. The divide [words indistinct] between these two rivers, but what happened? [Words indistinct] did not exist here. [Words indistinct] creating two water divides—one between the Zamora and Cenepa Rivers and another between the Cenepa and Santiago Rivers. Here is the first water divide. Here is the second water divide.

This made an agreement obligatory, but as I said, Peru did not heed Ecuador's call for discussing the problem and began establishing detachments all along the Cenepa River, occupying almost all of it, until it found the Ecuadoran forces at the river's birth, which were there with equal rights, from the point of view that an essential error, a solution for which must be found, existed. These are the forces that are being attacked.

[Moderator] The next question is for Enrique Altiver, of Ecuador's Radio Sucre.

[Altiver] Can you tell us the name of the hero killed [words indistinct] and in what sector was he killed? [Words indistinct]. Thank you.

[Gallardo] The first soldier to die there was Soldier Pilco. We buried him in his hometown, in Pigaro. We have a list with the names of all the others. The others had to be buried at the field, with their burial grounds perfectly marked, of course.

Regarding your second question, we hope that efforts of the countries helping resolve this problem will lead to a cease-fire and, eventually, to a cessation of military operations and the full reestablishment of peace.

[Moderator] Hernan Yume, of Radio Francisco Estereo, Ecuador.

[Yume] Thank you. Good morning. [Words indistinct] yesterday evening and night [words indistinct] on the border with Peru. I would also like to [words indistinct].

[Gallardo] Yesterday, there were clashes in Cueva de los Tayos and clashes with a Peruvian patrol infiltrated in the Tihuinza sector. There were attacks also in the Coangos sector. These attacks are still going on despite efforts being made in Rio de Janeiro to secure a peace agreement.

Ecuador immediately acknowledged the initiative to withdraw Ecuadoran and Peruvian military means under the supervision of international organizations; this is an initiative Ecuador has been proposing from the beginning of the conflict.

[Moderator] From the Bolivar information network, Mr. German Castro of Ecuador.

[Castro] Good morning, Mr. Minister.

[Gallardo] Good morning.

[Castro] Every Ecuadorean is aware of the constant and unfortunate aggressions by the Peruvian Army which occur every time that country has some problem. It always looks to the border and wages an attack. Do you not think it would be advisable to create a populated border along [words indistinct] in which a process of settlements can be developed [words indistinct] as some analysts have proposed.

[Gallardo] This is an initiative we consider quite necessary. We really hope it will be put into practice with greater intensity.

[Moderator] The Ecuadoran association of radio broadcasters, association of television broadcasters, association of newspapers, and CIESPAL want to thank the defense minister for having agreed to grant this news conference to these independent media. I also want to thank you and express the importance of the facilities available to you in this building to transmit your news. Thank you very much. [applause]

[Gallardo] I thank you for the attention with which you have listened to me and the cordial manner in which this news conference was held. I want to use this opportunity to express to my Armed Forces comrades the greetings, congratulations, and affection of their commanders and all of the Ecuadoran people. I also want to ask the Ecuadoran people to remain calm and to continue to work hard. I want to express our great desire for peace for the Ecuadoran people, the Peruvian people, and the entire world. Thank you very much. [applause]

Reports on Dead, Wounded

PA0602024495 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2358 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 5 Feb (EFE)—Ecuadoran Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo reported today that Ecuadoran casualties in 11 days of border fighting amount to 10 dead, two missing, and 17 seriously wounded who needed to be evacuated and hospitalized.

In an interview with EFE and other foreign correspondents, Gallardo also declared that Ecuador maintains all its posts in the conflict area, at the source of the Cenepa River in the Amazon region, despite the fact that Peru says that Ecuador has already been dislodged.

"We are in this area. They have not been able to dislodge us. There has been heavy bombing, but we were able to resist because of the kind of terrain involved and our defenses," the minister added.

Over the past two days, according to Gallardo, Peruvian troops have concentrated attacks on the Ecuadoran posts

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of Coangos, Cueva de los Tayos, Base Sur, and Tihuinza, located in the area the two countries are disputing. They have not again attacked Soldado Monge, Teniente Ortiz, Etza, or other detachments located in Ecuadoran territory that is not in the disputed region.

"They are bent on dislodging us from these positions, and we are bent on maintaining them. We have been successful. We are reinforcing the sector. We can maintain it. The morale of our men is high now that they have more experience," Gen. Gallardo added.

Peru has a greater military force, both overall and in the conflict area, but the Ecuadoran Armed Forces, according to Gallardo, believe they can hold their current positions at the source of the Cenepa River.

The Ecuadoran defense minister confirmed that the Peruvian Army is employing special units it has used in its fight against the Shining Path terrorists, adding that ahead of these troops are four or five Amazon Indians.

"I do not know whether they use them as guides or as shields, but in any case, there is a serious risk due to the mines and traps," Gallardo added.

He also gave assurances that far away from the conflict area, on the Pacific coast, Peru is concentrating forces across from the Ecuadoran southern province of El Oro "in an attack formation."

Ecuador also has mobilized units in that sector, "but in a defensive posture," he added.

"Anyone in the area can easily distinguish who is ready to attack and who is defending," the Ecuadoran defense minister said.

Regarding the Ecuadoran dead, he said that there are no officers among them, all are "soldiers and noncommissioned officers," and their relatives have been properly notified, despite the fact that all names have not been made public.

Gallardo confirmed that, up until now, Ecuador has only captured two Peruvian soldiers who are being held in the city of Cuenca in compliance with international law and that they have been visited by Red Cross representatives.

Regarding Peruvian casualties, the minister said, "this is up to them to report on this," adding that Ecuador "is trying to be open on this subject" without masking or exaggerating numbers.

Defense Minister: Country Not To Abandon Territory

PA0602042995 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0003 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 5 Feb (EFE)—Peru wants to gain a territorial advantage and dislodge Ecuador from where it has always been, Ecuadoran Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo said today when explaining the reasons why the Quito Government did not approve the peace proposal presented on Saturday [4 February] in Rio de Janeiro.

"Peru views as equals those who are attacking and those who are merely defending themselves (namely Ecuador) from their original positions," the general explained.

"It is only logical that the forces that have advanced should be the ones to retreat," Gallardo said in an interview with EFE and other foreign correspondents.

"We want them to leave," added Gallardo, who insisted over and over that Peru started the conflict and that Ecuador has at all times defended itself from its original positions. The original positions he specifically referred to were Coangos, Base Sur, Tihuinza, and Cueva de los Tayos, which are spread across the Condor Mountain Range where Ecuador has had military detachments for years.

Those positions are inside Ecuadoran territory, according to the dividing line established by the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol, as can be verified on a map prepared by the Peruvian War Ministry [name of ministry as received], which the Ecuadoran minister used in his explanation to journalists.

Regarding the peace talks, the Ecuadoran minister said that notwithstanding the fact that the peace talks among the deputy foreign ministers of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol guarantor countries ended without success on Sunday, negotiations will continue in Brasilia, even though he did not say if this would be within the same framework or at what level. Ecuador and Peru signed the protocol in 1942. The guarantor countries comprise Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States.

The Ecuadoran defense minister admitted Peru's military superiority, but he gave assurances that "despite the intense Peruvian bombing, we are inside our territory and they have not been able to dislodge us."

Regarding the causes of conflict, Gallardo said that the disputed territory, some 300 square km, "is insignificant to Peru," while for Ecuador "it has an enormous symbolic value."

He believes that it is an area in which "great riches have not been discovered," and he said he does not know how relations are between the Peruvian Armed Forces and the Peruvian Government, but in Ecuador these relations "are excellent."

Gallardo would not comment on the Peruvian political situation or on Peruvian military strategy, but he stated that he has proof that the Peruvian Army is using specialized units trained in the war against the Shining Path and is also using Indians at the front.

Regarding the situation on the bordering coastline between the two countries, he only stated that "Peruvian and Ecuadoran forces are mobilizing."

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He also reported that Peruvian forces have stopped attacking territorial areas outside the disputed area, and that over the past few days, "the area of confrontation has been reduced."

For this reason, Gallardo said, for the time being the term "war" cannot be used to refer to the armed clashes that have occurred between Peru and Ecuador since 26 January along their common border.

"I would not like that term (war) to be used," the general said, who believes the word is more appropriate for conflicts covering greater territorial areas.

Army General Urges Troops To Remain on 'War Footing'

PA0402200595 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1748 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Interview with Army General Marcelo Bonilla by reporter Loyda Carriel in Loja Province on 4 February—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Carriel] General, first, I would like you to begin the interview by sending greetings to all of the soldiers currently on the Ecuadoran border and who are listening to us.

[Bonilla] Very well. I am the military representative in Loja Province, and I want to tell our soldiers that they must remain on a war footing. The population is supporting fully them in every way. I know that when the troops are told that the people are supporting them, their spirits and morale will be lifted and they will hold their heads high and defend what, by all rights, has always belonged to us.

[Carriel] What preparations have been made in Loja Province in advance of a possible attack?

[Bonilla] In Loja, we have worked primarily with the Civil Defense Board. Areas have been established. There are representatives in those areas, and these representatives have formulated plans to provide safety and protection for the civilian population in the event of an attack, bombing, or fire. The citizens have even established surveillance teams to prevent any looting, because there are always those who try to take advantage of emergency situations and blackouts to commit crimes. The people are organized by neighborhoods, and, in turn, we have hardly had any problems whatsoever.

[Carriel] There are reports that Ecuadoran troops are harassing Peruvian citizens to prompt them to leave the country. Is there any truth to this?

[Bonilla] I have heard absolutely nothing about that, at least not here in this province. The Peruvian citizens who wanted to leave did so voluntarily. I have not heard of any such incident.

[Carriel] You totally rule out this possibility?

[Bonilla] Yes. That has not happened; there is no question about it.

[Carriel] Nevertheless, two spies have been arrested, according to the governor.

[Bonilla] Those arrests may have taken place last night, but I have no knowledge about them because I was [words indistinct].

[Carriel] With regard to the evacuation of Macara, how is the military helping?

[Bonilla] The evacuation, as you know, Miss, was carried out during the first few days. The evacuees are receiving treatment from all of the civic organizations in the areas established for them. Arrangements have been made to prevent them from encountering any problems, as well as to ensure that at least their basic needs will be fully met. The entire population and the civil defense system have joined together in this effort, which is necessary in cases such as these.

[Carriel] Is the Army encountering a food shortage in the city of Loja?

[Bonilla] No, not yet. We are all making sure that trade flows freely and that everyone is working. There has also been a great deal of support for the Armed Forces here in Loja Province.

[Carriel] In conclusion, General, not one step backward, right?

[Bonilla] You must have confidence in the professionalism of the Armed Forces. We are prepared for everything, and, exactly as you have said, not one step backward. That is the slogan of the 72d Brigade here in Loja Province.

Armed Forces: Conflict Area 'Permanently Harassed'

PA0502162995 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1538 GMT 5 Feb 95

["Official Bulletin No. 15" issued by the Armed Forces Joint Command; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command informs the country of the following:

The conflict area yesterday, particularly the area between Cueva de los Tayos, Base Sur, and Tihuinza, have been permanently harassed by Peruvian patrols seeking to infiltrate the area. As a result of these actions, clashes are constantly being reported between patrols that are supported by mortar fire and helicopter gunships.

There are no reports of casualties that may have been sustained by our troops, the Armed Forces Joint Command states.

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All our detachments are under the control of our troops, and our positions are maintained. The Air and Naval Forces are carrying out their surveillance missions in our territorial sea and airspace.

The morale of our troops in the entire front is high, and they know of the civic and patriotic support of the entire nation, the Joint Command of the Armed Forces states.

Military: Country Ready for 'Vietnam-Style War'

PA0502053595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 4 Feb (EFE)—Ecuador is prepared to maintain "a Vietnam-style war" for an extended period of time should diplomatic negotiations with Peru fail, military sources told EFE in Quito today.

According to the Ecuadoran Armed Forces, in the armed clashes that are taking place along the Ecuador-Peru border, the superiority of either side is not as distinct as the characteristics of the terrain where the fight is being staged.

"The United States was quite superior to Vietnam. However, after more than 10 years of combat, it was unable to win the war," the sources consulted by EFE recalled.

Apparently, the terrain and the strategies being followed by the Peruvian and Ecuadoran Armed Forces along the border are very similar to those that characterized the Vietnam War.

This is a conflagration in which "soldiers from either side virtually do not see each other." This is why, the sources explained, such a small number of casualties has been registered.

While the Ecuadoran Armed Forces "limit themselves to defending their positions with some—very limited—tactical counterattacks," the Peruvians are following a strategy of constant attacks, after shelling Ecuadoran detachments with fixed mortar and light artillery for an entire night, they added.

The Amazon territory, where Peruvians and Ecuadorans are fighting, resembles that of Vietnam considerably. It is less marshy than that of the Darien jungle on the Colombia-Panama border, with lower vegetation, but it is as thick and even wilder.

The intensity of the Peruvian fire is constant, and along with the Ecuadoran counterfire, it is causing serious harm to the area's ecological balance, the sources explained.

In that sort of terrain, the use of armored vehicles or heavy artillery is impossible. Therefore, only mortars, rocket launchers, antiaircraft fire, machine guns, and helicopter gunships are being used in the clashes between Peruvians and Ecuadorans.

The Peruvians are also using airplanes to "give cover" or air protection to their helicopters and their ground units.

The strategy being followed regarding the deployment of forces from the two sides is based on the U.S. doctrine: with divisions split into three brigades, which are in turn separated into three combat battalions and three support battalions each, the military sources explained.

The Peruvians, in contrast to what they claim, "have not been able to step" yet into the territory of any of the Ecuadoran detachments or original positions, the Ecuadoran military states.

The same sources said that Peru is concentrating military troops along the Peru-Ecuador border on the Pacific Coast, in the area the Peruvians call "theater of northern operations," in the Peruvian province of Tumbes.

The Ecuadoran Armed Forces told EFE that they have deployed troops to that area in preparation for a Peruvian attack outside the territory currently in dispute on the Amazon side.

The Ecuadoran military do not consider that possibility as very remote since they believe Peru has already launched attacks outside the territory in dispute.

The Peruvians "are not even respecting the boundary markers stipulated by the Rio de Janeiro Protocol," which they defend in the negotiations to reach a cease-fire, the military sources argued.

Armed Forces Clarify Procedures for Requisitions

PA0502182895 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1625 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Report by Marco Antonio Bravo and Liz Borja from the Presidency in Quito—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have an official report from the Ecuadoran Armed Forces Joint Command, which reads:

Because unscrupulous people, taking advantage of the current economic emergency, have been soliciting arbitrarily and on their own requisitions and donations for national defense, the Armed Forces Joint Command informs the nation of the following:

All requisitions must be presented in writing by the pertinent authority and sent to the individual or legal body from which the service or the use of goods is requested.

All requisitions must be made using the corresponding forms issued by the Armed Forces Mobilization Division.

Regulations outlining procedures for requisitions during the emergency and the payment of indemnifications are still in force. In addition to those regulations, individuals or institutions may cooperate voluntarily and patriotically with the national defense during the emergency.

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Anyone hampering or violating these regulations will be punished in accordance with the National Security Law.

Donations of any kind will be coordinated with delegates from the military front and civil defense within each jurisdiction. Cash donations will be deposited in a single account opened for the National Defense Board, the number of which is 56 33 9-5 in the Central Bank of Ecuador and its branches throughout the country.

Spokesman: Armed Forces Have Enough Munitions

PA0602133395 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A military spokesman has said the Ecuadoran Armed Forces have enough munitions to contain any Peruvian troops who may attempt to advance and consolidate positions in an undelimited jungle area on the common border. We have enough munitions, the ranking military officer has said, refuting reports published abroad regarding an alleged shortage of munitions affecting the Ecuadoran troops who are fighting with Peru. The officer, who wished to remain anonymous, has said: We have enough munitions to contain them today and a good while longer.

The Ecuadoran military chief has denied Peru had won any positions, saying Peru has not wanted to reach a cease-fire agreement, because it wants to have an advantageous position from the military point of view. What Peru wants is to consolidate its position there before negotiating. The military spokesman added: As every other invader and every other traitor, Peru wants to have the upper hand before arriving at an agreement.

Peruvian Army Said To Define Areas To Occupy

PA0502172895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1525 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 5 Feb (EFE)—The Peruvian Army has defined four areas in Ecuador, including the Galapagos Archipelago, which it will attempt to occupy if the border conflict in the Amazon region escalates into an all-out war according to reports published in Quito today.

The daily HOY stated in its "Black and White" magazine the other territories are Agrio Lake and surrounding areas in the Amazon region bordering with Colombia, from where Ecuador obtains most of its oil, the southern and bordering province of El Oro, which is rich in agricultural and mining resources, and the air, sea, and land communications link around Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city.

The Galapagos Archipelago is strategically located approximately 1,000 km off the Ecuadoran Pacific coast. The United States used it as a naval base during World War II.

According to "Black and White," Peru would attempt, in case of war, to occupy those four territories "as pawns" so as to force Ecuador to give up its dispute in the Amazon region.

Joint Command Reports Navy, Air Force Guarding Territory

PA0602055095 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0155 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Official Information Bulletin No. 15 issued by the Ecuadoran Armed Forces Joint Command in Quito on 5 February—read by station announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 5 February, the conflict zone, specifically the area between Cueva de Los Tayos, Base Sur, and Tihuinza, came under constant assault by Peruvian patrols attempting to infiltrate the area.

As a result, there were constant clashes between patrols, supported by mortar fire and helicopter gunships. No new Ecuadoran casualties have been reported. All Ecuadoran detachments are under control the control of our troops, and our positions have undergone no changes.

The Air Force and Navy are doing their duty, which is to guard and protect the country's territorial waters and airspace. The morale of our troops on all fronts is very high, and they are aware of the nation's civic and patriotic support.

Military Source: 50 Peruvians, 10 Ecuadoreans Killed

PA0402015795 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 95

[From the "Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fighting between Peruvian and Ecuadoran troops, which has been taking place for over one week at the undemarcated zone of the Amazon region, has left 60 soldiers dead and 40 missing, according to an Ecuadoran ranking military source.

An officer said that 10 Ecuadoran and 50 Peruvian soldiers have been killed in combat. From Lima, the government announced on Thursday that 43 Ecuadoran and 11 Peruvian soldiers had been killed.

The Ecuadoran Armed Forces Joint Command responded immediately and denied the report by Peruvian authorities, which had also reported the occupation of Ecuadoran detachments in the conflict area. It is absolutely false, it is a psychological war of disinformation, a ranking Ecuadoran military source stated. The same source said 40 other Ecuadoran soldiers were reported as missing, according to Peruvian troop communications intercepted in the conflict area.

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Civilian Prisoners Exchanged With Peru in Huaquillas

PA0402201695 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1936 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 4 Feb (DPA)—Ecuador and Peru, which have been confronting each other militarily since 26 January, today at the Huaquillas International Bridge made the first exchange of civilians arrested. The exchange was negotiated by a Catholic priest.

Eight Ecuadoreans, who were taken prisoner in northern Peru on charges of espionage, were handed over to civilian authorities in the border province of El Oro in exchange for three Peruvian citizens who had been detained in northern Ecuador. Another five Peruvians who remain under arrest in Ecuador will probably be exchanged tomorrow for four Ecuadoreans apprehended in recent days in the department of Tumbes.

Neither Ecuador nor Peru has reported additional arrests of civilians. Moreover, both countries have guaranteed the safety of foreigners in their respective territories. Nevertheless, in both countries there are reports, which have been officially denied on both sides of the border, of foreigners being detained arbitrarily.

Today's prisoner exchange was negotiated by an Ecuadoran Catholic priest who works in Tumbes. The civilians exchanged today included a 14-year-old Ecuadoran girl and two seminarians.

The Huaquillas International Bridge is located in the Pacific region, more than 300 km away from the jungle regions of the Amazon Basin, where troops from both countries have been engaged in fierce fighting for the past 10 days.

9 Peruvians Charged With Espionage Detained

PA0602025595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0101 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 5 Feb (EFE)—Ecuadoran television stations today reported that nine Peruvian citizens charged with espionage were detained by Ecuadoran authorities in the city of Loja near the border.

Peruvian detainees Stanislao Farro and Andres Sanchez, interviewed by an Ecuadoran television station, denied the espionage charges, saying that they are merchants and that all their activities are legal.

The alleged Peruvian spies, who are being held at the public jail in the southern city of Loja, also denied having been tortured or mistreated by Ecuadoran soldiers and asked to be set free.

Over the past few days Peru and Ecuador have exchanged several citizens detained by the other, some for being undocumented and others on espionage charges.

Doctor on Distribution of Medical Supplies

PA0602132395 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0034 GMT 6 Feb 95

[By Aldo Rodriguez Villouta]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mendez (Ecuador's Amazon Region), 5 Feb (EFE)— Ecuadoran soldiers are becoming their own doctors and are arriving at the combat zone with their own medical supplies in view of the "great difficulty" true doctors are having in adapting to the Amazon territory where Ecuador and Peru are fighting.

One of the doctors stationed near the conflict area has told EFE "the situation is very critical."

"The truth is that medical supplies arrive in Patuca (50 kilometers from the conflict zone), but it is difficult to distribute them."

Consequently, the doctor has disclosed, we have opted to make a "single package" with all the medicines needed by a fighter, and each individual has to carry it as part of his war equipment.

The "single package" contains analgesic and antiinflammatory drugs, bandages, and sanitary packages, among others.

He has said it is "difficult" to evacuate the wounded from the conflict zone to the nearest heliport due to the conditions of the terrain.

"The problem," he added, "is that it is hard to walk in the jungle; thus, it turns out to be quite complicated to evacuate the wounded or to take medicines to those who need them."

The doctor consulted by EFE, who had just returned from the battle front, has said "the wounded keep increasing, because the Peruvians have entered Ecuadoran territory, by land, in larger numbers."

"They (the Peruvian troops) are surrounding us, and there is constant shooting, and this reason is why it is hard to distribute the medical supplies," the doctor has said.

Today is the 11th day of clashes on the common border between the Ecuadoran and Peruvian armies. This fighting has resulted in dozens of dead, wounded, and missing.

Late on 5 February, aside from sporadic air incursions, the struggle is centering on ambushes between patrols hiding in the thick jungle, Vietnamese style.

The doctor consulted by EFE has said "the wounded on the Ecuadoran side keep increasing, because the Peruvians have entered in larger numbers."

"They entered by land in the past few hours and are seizing the first trenches in the front, which used to be Ecuadoran positions."

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"As a general rule, there is no war activity at night; there are no fronts, no set lines of defense. There is even hand-to-hand combat here," Jose Grijalva, commander of one of the Ecuadoran battalions in the area, has told EFE.

Grijalva is not that worried about the Peruvian forces' jungle fighting experience against the Maoist "Shining Path" and added: "No, nothing is that difficult, because aside from our technical training in jungle operations, we have our conscience, based on history's reason and truth. In this way, there is no force, experience, or training that can win over us."

In recent decades, Ecuador has had no powerful guerrilla groups, and rebel movements, which gave up their weapons voluntarily, specialized in urban actions.

Jungle combat is difficult. It is slow operations involving the combing of areas and territorial consolidation.

Grijalva and other Ecuadoran military commanders do not rule out the possibility, however, that these actions may lead to more serious situations. Consequently, they are increasing and coordinating actions with civil defense and other urban assistance groups.

Grijalva has warned: "We must prepare for any extreme situation. All must be prepared, soldiers and civilians alike."

Notwithstanding, he has said he did not believe "such extremes could be reached, because they would be too despicable for a country to promote them," he added without mentioning Peru.

Under these war conditions, Peru would prove its obvious military superiority, "but that is no way to win a war, because it would not only be including soldiers," he has said.

In the "guerrilla war," the Indians of the Amazon region have played an important role, and this reason is why military commanders are renewing old ties of cooperation between the military and the natives.

Regarding the victims, the Ecuadoreans are burying their own and the enemy in the jungle, with honors, marking the tombs, something which is being done in view of the difficulty in evacuating them.

"When opportune, the Ecuadoreans will say where the dead Peruvians were buried. We must respect the prisoners of war and the enemy's dead," Grijalva has said.

Peru

Adviser Comments on 'Severe' Peruvian Position

PY0402002795 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2135 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry adviser Antonio Belaunde Moreira, who is accompanying the Peruvian delegation to the guarantor countries meeting in Rio de Janeiro, by Carlos Alvarado—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Alvarado] Good afternoon Mr. Belaunde.

[Belaunde] Good afternoon. We are here working late into the night every day. We are all working very hard under the leadership of Ambassador Ponce who is shouldering a very serious responsibility and is doing superb job.

[Alvarado] Thank you very much for having agreed to talk to us. As you may realize, here in Peru people are following the current negotiations with the guarantor countries delegations with great interest. What can you tell Peruvians—through Radio Programas del Peru—about these negotiations?

[Belaunde] Well, we have been working for several days here at the old Itamaraty Palace where the Rio de Janeiro protocol was signed. These negotations are very difficult because we demand the complete withdrawal of the foreign troops from what we believe is our territory.

Ambassador Ponce, who is in permanent contact with the president from whom he has received very specific and demanding instructions, has negotiated on this basis.

I believe we are [words indistinct] it is hoped that in the next few hours will have a communique that will resolve the problem. I must add, however, that Peru has adopted a much more severe position than is desirable for diplomatic purposes because of Peruvian domestic political developments, because of Peruvian domestic political developments [repeats himself]. In view of this, it has been established that a cease-fire will not be achieved while Ecuadoran forces are still present in what we believe is Peruvian territory.

As you are aware, in principle a cease-fire is a preliminary, conditional, and temporary solution that seeks to achieve a cessation of hostilities. It does not, however, and should not prejudge the heart of the matter.

In the agreement achieved in 1981 under similar circumstances in the so-called Falso Paquisha case the final text agreed upon clearly defines this. A cease-fire and all measures adopted within this framework by the government does not prejudge the heart of the matter.

To demand an absolute victory before establishing a cease-fire means that the cease-fire becomes a complementary measure to the victory. Therefore, it does not have any practical significance. This means that a ceasefire does not really signify an interruption of hostilities as such.

Had the internal political debate in Peru been more realistic and had there been more consensus on the defense of national interests, the negotiation would have been far easier.

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By adopting a severe position in the negotiations, we are running the risk of wearing out the mediators who are helping Peru and Ecuador to achieve an agreement.

The other side has of course made its own demands but it is important for us to achieve a prompt agreement. The Peruvian political debate has hardened our position beyond what is desirable for diplomatic purposes.

[Alvardo] Excuse me sir. Have there been personal negotiations with the Ecuadoran representatives? Does this mean that the two delegations are negotiating directly?

[Belaunde] Well, we have been meeting for the past four days. We have gone through different stages. The negotiations have been personally conducted by Ambassador Eduardo Ponce. He is the negotiator.

[Alvarado] Correct.

[Belaunde] (?These gentlemen negotiate) and we advise and assist him because, as you are aware, this is a very complex task. Our efforts are centered on establishing direct contact with the guarantor countries and the deputy ministers of the guarantor countries and the other party, that is, Ecuador. The negotiations are conducted by Ambassador Ponce. He is a very disciplined person who has closely and carefully followed the instructions that have constantly been imparted by the president with whom he has been in permanent contact. Moreover, Ambassador Ponce has faithfully followed these instructions.

All this has been very tough. When we arrived here, it was thought that we would resolve the problem in one night of negotiations. If I am not mistaken, today is the fourth day of negotiations.

[Alvarado] Yes, that is right. What we know here is that in the first few days, the Peruvian deputy foreign minister did not meet with the Ecuadoran deputy minister. This is why I am asking you—are the two deputy ministers conducting personal negotiations right now?

[Belaunde] Yes. Ambassador Ponce personally met for many hours with the Ecuadoran deputy foreign minister outside Itamaraty Palace. Much progress was achieved in these direct negotiations. Much progress was achieved but not all the problems were ironed out. In view of this, we had to come to Itamaraty Palace so that the guarantor countries could help us resolve the last issues.

Moreover, other positions were taken into account and other instructions were imparted, and things got complicated. This is a very complicated issue.

Ambassador Ponce on 1 February held an extensive meeting with the Uruguayan [as heard] deputy foreign minister in which many measures were agreed upon. We have been working in this manner since 1 February.

[Alvarado] We have been talking with Antonio Belaunde Moreira, Peruvian adviser to the delegation attending the negotiations in Rio de Janeiro. Thank you very much. We will be closely following developments.

[Belaunde] Not at all. Good-bye.

Ponce Interviewed on Talks With Ecuador

PY0402010995 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2213 GMT 3 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce, head of Peruvian delegation negotiating peace agreement with Ecuador in Rio de Janeiro, by Carlos Alvarado—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ponce] Good evening, how are you?

[Alvarado] We are very much concerned and alert to what is happening in Itamaraty in Rio de Janeiro. I would like you to inform the Peruvian people of the latest information you have.

[Ponce] I don't want to be very precise because I don't believe that would be appropriate. What I can say is that we are doing the best possible work, that we have a good delegation, that I feel well supported by all of them, especially by Antonio Belaunde Moreira, who is very well versed on the juridical aspect of the Peruvian-Ecuadoran relationship, in addition to being a very brilliant man.

I am well acquainted with the problems between Peru and Ecuador. I am a professional diplomat; nothing else. I am carrying out my duties to the best of my ability. The truth is that I am very tired but I believe, fortunately, we are making some progress which we hope will be materialized in the next few hours. We are meeting in the same building where the Rio de Janeiro Protocol was signed 53 years ago. This is the first time we have been able to get Ecuador to sit at the same table with the guarantors. We are negotiating within the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol which is something we have not been able to do with Ecuador since 1960, when Ecuador had the absurd idea of unilaterally declaring the protocol null.

We are very satisfied because everything in this building reminds us of the January 1942 negotiations that were essential for Peru. In this regard we feel great emotion at being connected to an event that was so important for the history of our country.

[Alvarado] This is very important for our country because it means a lot for diplomacy to be seated at the same table where the Rio de Janeiro Protocol was signed on 29 January 1942. We would like you to tell the Peruvian people that the basic premise of the negotiations is that Peru remains inflexible in the sense that it advocates demilitarization as long as the Ecuadoran troops leave Peruvian territory. Is this true?

[Ponce] My dear friend, demilitarization means that the military forces leave a determined area. Then, as you can

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understand, this is the purpose and the center of our proposal. The objective of the negotiations is to get the withdrawl of the Ecuadoran forces through the demilitarization. Therefore, I believe there should not be any doubt in this regard because the case here is not to play the game of the egg and the chicken or to make proposals of principle. I believe that two parties are needed in any international negotiation or in any type of negotiation, not only international. The participation of two parties is needed. This means negotiation; the contrary would be an imposition. We are negotiating with the support of our juridical framework, with the support of the international treaties in force, and with the relative support of the guarantors of the protocol because, although they are not the parties directly involved, they are committed through the same international juridical instrument which is the protocol.

And I would like to reiterate that for the first time we were able to get Ecuador to sit at the table. I personally keep a fluid relationship not only with the guarantors but also with my Ecuadoran counterpart because without it, it will be impossible to develop the negotiations.

All Peruvians should know that the protocol gives the contracting parties, it gives Peru and Ecuador, the obligation, need, and right to understand each other. The protocol states: with the participation of the guarantor countries. We cannot, and we should not, abandon what belongs to us as a right, as an obligation, and as a duty: the negotiation between the parties. When we cannot agree, the guarantors intervene in support of the law and in search of positions that will lead to solutions, and to overcoming critical situations.

You should realize that this event is interrupting a stage of essential progress in our country. Peru has experienced decades of progressive prostration. We were able to stop this trend and put ourselves on the opposite path but this is being interrupted by this crisis which is so untimely, and which could have very serious consequences. Let us hope we can end it as soon as possible in accordance with the law and the interest of the country. This is why I believe that after we overcome this situation, we will return to the path of progress of which I am proud and of which all Peruvians should be proud.

[Alvarado] Are the negotiations going to be resumed tonight or tomorrow? What is your schedule?

[Ponce] Unfortunately, our schedule is to wait, wait, wait, persevere, work, and not sleep. We are waiting. After the guarantors are able to reconcile some ideas, the few left in disagreement, the six of us will sit at the table once again and finish the final document on which great progress has been made.

[Alvarado] Thank you very much for this conversation with Peru through Radio Programas del Peru. We are very grateful. We wish you success in your mission which is for the good of Peru. Thank you, Mr. Ponce.

[Ponce] I am thankful to you for your interest, for your support, and I hope you are conveying an attitude of support and not of criticism in the rearguard.

Ponce: Rio Cease-Fire Proposal 'Acceptable'

PA0502024495 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Feb 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro, 4 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce Vivanco has said that it is not his country that needs more time to reach a decision about the cease-fire proposal, which the guarantor nations of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol presented today, Saturday. He believes "the agreement is acceptable to the two sides."

Ponce argued that he heard about certain statements by Deputy Foreign Minister Sebastio do Rego Barros of Brazil, which have apparently been misinterpreted.

The diplomat was referring to an earlier official statement in which the delegates of the guarantor countries in the Ecuadoran-Peruvian dispute announced that they had presented a new cease-fire proposal to the Lima and Quito governments for consideration.

The Brazilian deputy foreign minister announced the proposal and added that one of the two countries had requested "more time" to formulate its position regarding the initiative.

"It is not Peru that needs more time," Ponce stressed, admitting that "the agreement is acceptable to the two sides," which would indicate that the administration of President Alberto Fujimori has given its approval to the cease-fire proposal.

The initiative is the latest effort presented by the team of mediators, who also reported that they had decided to extend their conciliation efforts until Sunday.

"We are doing everything possible; we are working well" to end the fighting, the diplomat stated.

The president of the Peruvian delegation to the peace negotiation process in Rio de Janeiro highlighted the efforts of the guarantor nations (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States) and said that "they have led the process professionally."

Fujimori Awaits Rio Decision, Confident of Peaceful Solution

PY0402215495 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2141 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Report from Government House by Patricia Etchegaray]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government palace press secretariat has just issued a press report stating that until 0400 [0900 GMT] today, President Alberto Fujimori, Democratic Constitutent Congress [CCD] President Jaime Yoshiyama, and the president of the council of

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ministers, Efrain Goldenberg, awaited a decision regarding the negotiations underway in Rio de Janeiro between representatives of Ecuador, Peru, and the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

The note states that communications with Peruvian Vice Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce were permanent and through them the progress of the negotiations in search of a cessation of hostilities between the two countries was closely followed.

It also states that between 0800 and 1100 [1300 and 1600 GMT] today President Fujimori spoke by phone with the presidents of Colombia, Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil, as well as with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The note ends by stating that President Fujimori has voiced his confidence that, despite the slow development of negotiations, a peaceful solution that will respect Peruvian rights will be reached.

Right now President Fujimori, Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg, and CCD President Jaime Yoshiyama are still meeting here at Government House awaiting a prompt peaceful solution to the border conflict.

Lima Awaits Ecuadoran Reponse to Draft Peace Proposal

PA0502042895 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by an unidentified reporter in Lima on 4 February; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ponce] Good evening. I understand you want to know what is happening here in Rio de Janeiro, where the entire Peruvian delegation is guarding the rights and best interests of the country. Today has been a rather calm day. We started very late, because we went to sleep this morning at 1130 hours. We went to the Itamaraty Palace at 1700 hours. We have not received a response from Ecuador to the draft agreement we were able to negotiate and establish with so much effort these past days. For that reason, we had to stop to see if the response comes tomorrow and what the final fate will be of such an important meeting with the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. No doubt, the meeting is important owing to the perseverance of the delegates and the sacrifices they have been making. Although this is a matter that affects Peru and Ecuador in particular, as you may understand, since they are the countries directly involved in the hostilities taking place these days, the rest of the countries accompanying us, no doubt, have an obligation within the legal framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. But diplomatic marathons that entail two or three hours of sleep and that have taken place for five days already say a great deal about the level of commitment to and participation of those countries in the peace and security of our hemisphere.

[Reporter] What are Ecuador's differences regarding the document?

[Ponce] I am not going to get into those details because what a diplomatic negotiator may say under the circumstances may be subject to interpretation and may ultimately hamper the negotiations. For that reason, allow me to limit myself to the comments I have just made. Fundamentally, we are submitting very serious proposals that tie the cease-fire to conditions that will make it safe and permanent and will turn it into a decision that will not be hurt by any foreseeable circumstance, like, for example, when troops are too close to each other in one zone and have even engaged in hand to hand combat. For that reason, a cease-fire in that zone under those circumstances, without the separation of the forces, without an obviously adequate demilitarization, is fragile and, therefore, liable to be broken by either side. Any international decision that is impaired or not complied with begins to erode and discredit the organization that made that decision and the sides that adopted it. That is what I do not want (?to happen).

[Reporter] Is there anything else of interest that you want to tell the Peruvian people?

[Ponce] I merely want to say that we feel we have the backing of a kind of rearguard consisting of the concern of the people for something that is so important for the country. We hope there will be no differing views. We hope domestic policy interests in no way prevail. We hope nobody tries to profit from a situation as important as this one with a view toward the future. For that reason, we are counting on you, on your understanding, and on your support, because, believe me, we are going through difficult and, frankly, exhausting moments.

No Official Peruvian Reaction to 'Failure' of Rio Talks

PY0502214095 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2005 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lima, 5 Feb (EFE)—There has been no official reaction in Lima this afternoon after the announcement in Rio de Janeiro on the failure of the peace negotiations between Peru and Ecuador.

President Alberto Fujimori is not in Lima. Last night he went to the border to visit the Peruvian positions in the battlefront. A Government House source told EFE he did not know what time today Fujimori would return to Lima.

Foreign Ministry sources said they knew about the result of the mediation by the guarantor countries and that it is "possible" that a communique in this regard will be released in the next few hours. [passage omitted]

Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen will meet with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso in Brasilia tonight at 2230 (0030 GMT), with Argentine President Carlos Menem in Buenos Aires at noon on 6

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February, and with Chilean President Eduardo Frei in Santiago at 1700 on 6 February.

Foreign Ministry Communique Notes Efforts of Guarantor Countries

PA0602005495 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2321 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Official Communique No. 595 issued by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry in Lima on 5 February—read by announcer]

(FBIS Translated Text] At the meeting of ranking representatives from the guarantor countries—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and United the States—with the deputy foreign ministers of Peru and Ecuador, an arrangement was reached regarding a cease-fire draft agreement, to which Point No. 5 of the guarantor countries' declaration makes reference.

2. [number as heard] As the guarantor countries know, the Peruvian Government, displaying a position that once again demonstrates its pacifism and respect for the law, has been willing to sign the draft agreement in question. Unfortunately, the Ecuadoran Government has disclosed that an examination of the document will require additional time.

3. The draft agreement calls on both countries to immediately and urgently redeploy their troops to designated positions in their respective territories, and, appropriately, it includes the basic elements of Peru's position which fully coincides with international treaties and demands for peace, security, and strict respect for national sovereignty.

4. Peru appreciates the valuable assistance provided by the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and United States, whose representatives, fulfilling the duties outlined in the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, worked for six exhausting days until they finished preparing the draft agreement.

Peru welcomes the renewed pledge formulated by those representatives on behalf of their governments, whereby they will continue contributing to the restoration of peace and to the full execution of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

[Dated] Lima, 5 February 1995

Foreign Minister Discusses Border Conflict

PA0602051895 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0241 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Interview With Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg by program host Guido Lombardi at the Panamericana Studios in Lima; from the "Panorama" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lombardi] As promised, I am here with Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg, who agreed to answer questions drafted by "Panorama." Good evening, Foreign Minister. Thank you for coming.

[Goldenberg] Good evening, Guido. Thank you for inviting me.

[Lombardi] I must confess that I never imagined I would have the privilege—because it is a privilege—of interviewing a foreign minister at a time when the country is involved in a war. Indeed, we are at war, are we not?

[Goldenberg] I would say we are involved in a conflict. War is a slightly weightier word. This is not a war; it is, fortunately, a localized situation. I would say that we are fully in control of the situation, as well as that the country can rest assured that not only is reason on our side, along with the security provided by the legal instruments that govern our relationship with our neighbor to the north and our borders, but that we have the means and capability with which to defend our sovereignty.

[Lombardi] Nevertheless, Foreign Minister, the hope that the conflict would remain localized depended on the Rio meeting. I believe that meeting—and please, correct me if I am mistaken—can be interpreted as a Peruvian victory, because the guarantor countries have pointed out that they will continue their enormous efforts in an active, permanent, and coordinated manner in favor of peace, at least according to their declaration. This active, permanent, and coordinated presence is pretty much what Peru had always called for. Does your interpretation concur with mine?

[Goldenberg] Fully. For many years we have maintained, and rightfully so, that the Rio de Janeiro Protocol was completely valid and that it was necessary for the guarantors to be involved to the extent established under the protocol. From that viewpoint, the Rio meeting is a reaffirmation of the guarantors' involvement and interest.

[Lombardi] Nevertheless, the guarantors as mediators have not managed to get a peace agreement signed. They presented a cease-fire proposal in which, as I said earlier, laid the hope that the conflict would remain localized. What will happen now? Will the conflict spread or will we—and, if so, perhaps Peru's victory could become pyrrhic—have to go to other forums, which is what Ecuador has been insisting upon?

[Goldenberg] I would say the conflict is still localized and that we should have no fear whatsoever in bringing this problem to other forums. Although the OAS is one possibility, we must remember that a summons from the OAS would be within the framework of the protocol, reaffirming the validity of the protocol and the validity of the guarantors' role. That would be the nature of an OAS summons. I believe we should not be at all concerned about this, and that regardless of the forum, Peru will be able to maintain its position because the law is on its side.

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[Lombardi] However, Foreign Minister, we have somehow lost the information war, as it has been called, and this is unfortunate, because to some extent it is a war that directly touches me. Peru, on an international level, is viewed as the aggressor. Internationally, there is a certain identification with Ecuador. Internationally, the lies that Ecuador has been reiterating regarding the protocol; 200,000 km of territory; and the denial, which it claims was imposed by force, of access to the Amazon have been echoed. How can we not fear other forums, when this campaign—a campaign that is well planned and perhaps not well neutralized by Peru—has been able to echo abroad?

[Goldenberg] First, I want to point out something that was said a moment ago. The OAS security system is not in any way exclusive; it complements the mechanism of the guarantors. This is what happened in 1981 at the time of the [words indistinct] case, when the two systems complemented one another.

[Lombardi] Are you saying this is what may eventually happen within the next few days?

[Goldenberg] This is what may happen, but not necessarily. The last word has not been spoken, but it could happen. Nevertheless, returning to what we discussed about information—namely, the war some say we have lost, the information war—I would instead call it a disinformation war. What I have seen is a variety of attitudes which I thought we had overcome. For instance, speeches from balconies by a person we have not seen among us for many years...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Oh yes, Velasco Ibarra, who still on the 21st...

[Goldenberg, interrupting] Yes, the use of inflammatory harangue, and the summoning of people based on terms we shall call incorrect, in order not to use another term. I would say that this does not have solid support and that it does not need to be denied on a daily basis. It collapses under its own weight, and we are already seeing this.

For example, we have as evidence the mention of U.S. helicopters that Peru has for its struggle against drug trafficking, which was immediately denied by the U.S. Government. Generally speaking, the entire world perceives that the attitude of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry and in general the reaction and attitude of the Peruvian Government...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Is more serious.

[Goldenberg] Is more serious. We report with seriousness, restraint, and utmost attention. I believe that in the end, when we talk about this calmly after these events have passed, everyone will agree with us that we did not lose but, rather, won the information war.

[Lombardi] I want to be the first person to recognize your optimism and to congratulate you for this, Mr. Minister. I have my doubts, however. I believe the Peruvian Government has acted seriously, and, along these lines, I would like to go back a little and return to Rio and see how decisions were made there. It seems obvious that the Ecuadoran representative, Deputy Foreign Minister Fernandez de Cordoba, did not have the authority that Eduardo Ponce had. Fernandez de Cordoba had to go back and forth, which was not the case with Ponce. How were decisions made, and how was Ambassador Ponce instructed?

[Goldenberg] We sent a very good delegation to Brazil—a high-level delegation headed by Deputy Minister Ponce, who was accompanied by a team of diplomats, including even a retired diplomat, a retired ambassador. It comprised the Foreign Ministry's best and the country's best. This team has been working and was in constant contact with the foreign minister and with the president. In addition, we have worked with the National Defense Council, which has been in permanent session these past few days.

[Lombardi] You have constantly taken part in these meetings?

[Goldenberg] Constantly. So much so that this can be seen in the quality decisions dispatched from Lima to Rio. Our people in Rio at all times received prompt replies and suggestions, which in some cases were negative when necessary, while sometimes there were acceptances. This permitted our people in Rio to be ready and able to sign the document that the guarantors produced. On the other hand, we have seen the other party and how this document has gone for more than 24 hours without even receiving a negative reply—no reply whatsoever. They have been unable to make a decision.

[Lombardi] Foreign Minister, we will take a quick station break, but pending are a series of anxieties, doubts, and issues which I believe you should inform the country about. I will ask you about them after the break. We will be right back.

[Lombardi continues following station break] We are now continuing with our dialogue with Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg on the northern border conflict. You have refrained from calling it a war, Foreign Minister. I believe this position is reasonable as long the conflict remains localized at this one area along our border. Let us hope that it does not spread from this area. In commenting on the guarantor nations communique, you have already implicitly provided your opinion of the role played by these nations. However, I would like an explicit answer with respect to your assessment of the guarantor nations' role in this dispute.

[Goldenberg] The guarantor nations have undertaken a tremendous effort in these past few days. They have worked very hard along with the Peruvian and Ecuadoran delegates, and in this respect, they deserve our recognition. Unfortunately, the position adopted by the Ecuadoran delegates, or I should say by the Ecuadoran Government, has not allowed the signing of a document

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that would have enabled an immediate cease-fire. This would have also allowed all parties involved to have a certain degree of confidence and respect, and it would have afforded the much sought-after withdrawal with dignity. Nevertheless, contacts with the guarantor nations not only took place in Rio de Janiero. We have been in been in constant contact with the foreign ministers of the guarantor nations from Lima, too. For example, I personally have established repeated contacts with several foreign ministers, not only from guarantor nations but...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Please forgive me for interrupting. If you have held the talks you just mentioned, then how can you explain statements such as those made by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella? Even if Peru is not apprehensive about appearing before other forums, it is not exactly the Argentine foreign minister's place to say that this is a matter for the UN Security Council. Do you not agree?

[Goldenberg] I agree with you. The fact is that the Argentine foreign minister changed his mind. Argentina...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Because of the talks you just mentioned?

[Goldenberg] No, no, no. Although I would not like to take credit for that, I cannot. The fact is that I have carried out two or three very extensive meetings with Foreign Minister Di Tella from Argentina who was in Europe at the time. I also have held talks with such foreign ministers as Abreu from Uruguay, Aranibar from Bolivia, Gurria from Mexico, Pardo from Colombia, Burelli from Venezuela, and Solana from Spain. All of these talks...

[Lombardi, interrupting] All of these talks you just mentioned—please, forgive my curiosity—were aimed at explaining the Peruvian position or came about as result of concerns from those specific foreign ministries. How did you receive a call... [pauses, changes thought] For example, how did talks between you and the Spanish foreign minister develop?

[Goldenberg] In some cases they came about because of our initiative, based on our belief in the need to duly explain our position and to explain that we are supported by the law and what is right. In other cases, the talks originated as result of concerns from the foreign ministers themselves. In the specific case of the Spanish foreign minister, we are friends, and therefore he telephoned me, and of course I have answered all of the calls I have been receiving. Moreover, these contacts have not simply remained at this level. I have seen that President Fujimori himself has been in constant contact with a number of presidents, not only with the presidents of the guarantor nations, but also presidents from other nations, especially those from our region.

[Lombardi] This is the kind of information the government releases, as opposed to the kind released by the media such as the report "Panorama" broadcast tonight on the mood in Ecuador. Maybe we will be able to witness which approach proved more fitting in a couple of weeks, when all of this comes to an end. The fact is that Duran-Ballen is also establishing contacts and conducting visits. He departed Quito immediately after returning from Venezuela and has visited the guarantor nations.

[Goldenberg] He is reaffirming the role of the guarantor nations. At one time, those countries were simply friends. Now, however, they have become guarantor nations.

[Lombardi] In other words, the friendly nations essentially became guarantor nations, and with this visit Duran-Ballen reaffirms the significance of the guarantors' role. I had not looked at it from that perspective. Nevertheless, do you believe that his visit can be countered with a simple phone call?

[Goldenberg] Well, sometimes when explanations fail, there are some decisions that can only be described as extreme; I would like to avoid the word desperate. Concerning this problem, there are no explanations, and to get a better grasp one only has to read the document issued by the guarantor nations. The declaration issued today in Rio de Janeiro is very clear.

[Lombardi] Yet the document abstains from condemning Ecuador, as we had expected—perhaps, as we in Peru had expected too optimistically.

[Goldenberg] It is not their responsibility to condemn. It is not up to them to pass judgment, because they are not a court. They are there to encourage and assist the disputing parties to reach an agreement.

[Lombardi] What are you referring to when you say the declaration is very clear?

[Goldenberg] The declaration says that in a climate of goodwill, and based on proposals made by all sides, even by the Ecuadoran side, it is possible to complete a project that includes urgent measures to end the confrontation now taking place and to establish additional measures that will lead to a lasting solution. Peru was willing to sign this document. Ecuador, however, let more than 24 hours go by without providing a reply.

[Lombardi] In military terms and not diplomatic terms, what was the essence of the document Peru was prepared to sign? Was it an agreement for a cease-fire and the redeploying of troops at points in each country?

[Goldenberg] That is right.

[Lombardi] And specific points in each country?

[Goldenber] Yes, points quite easy to locate through coordinates, and this would have allowed our troops to redeploy in our territory and Ecuadoran troops to withdraw to areas we recognize as Ecuadoran territory.

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[Lombardi] The fact that Ecuador refused to sign the document without offering a counterproposal, should this be construed as evidence of this country's aggressive character?

[Goldenberg] Without a doubt. You have said so yourself: A few days ago we were all able to watch an interview—I believe it was on U.S. television—where it was virtually impossible for the president of our neighboring country to prove or even insinuate that they were in the right. I would really not...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Mr. Minister, we still have two more minutes remaining, and I would like to offer them to you so that you may address the country. You are from the north, are you not? If I am not mistaken, you were raised and educated in Talara?

[Goldenberg] That is correct. I was born in Lima years ago, but my parents lived in Talara for several years. I was raised in Talara, and I went to grade school at the Centro Escolar de Talara. It was when I was about to enter high school that I came to Lima, because in those days there was no high school in Talara. Things have changed now.

[Lombardi] Foreign Minister, the residents of Talara, Piura, Tumbes, the northern part of the country, Cajamarca, Amazonas, and the border region, Peruvians living in Ecuador, and the entire nation would like to hear your message. I want to give you the last minutes of this lengthy interview so that you can send your message, which I am certain will be one of optimism.

[Goldenberg] Thank you very much. As a Peruvian, and in this specific case as a northerner, a Talara resident, I would like to restate to the people that there is no reason for apprehension. We are entitled to feel optimistic. We are in the right, and the treaties support this claim; diplomacy ratifies this; and the international community recognizes it. In addition, without any discussions whatsoever, we have the means to defend the nation's sovereignty.

[Lombardi] Thank you Minister Goldenberg for this interview. I hope you will grant us another interview when all of this has ended. I look forward to that end taking place very soon without the shedding of additional Peruvian or Ecuadoran blood in an absurd conflict—a conflict which I believe we should all spare no effort to end. Thank you again, Mr. Minister.

[Goldenberg] Thank you.

More Troops Move to Front Lines; Fujimori Visits Border

PY0502194895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1655 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 5 Feb (EFE)—The combat between the Peruvian and Ecuadoran troops at the border region of the Condor Mountain Range continues today in the Tihuinza battlefront.

Military sources from Bagua and Tumbes at the Ecuadoran border said today that the armed clashes have not stopped in the last 48 hours.

In Tihuinza, it is estimated that 1,000 Ecuadoran soldiers are resisting the attacks of about 2,000 Peruvian troops who are supported by mortar fire and armed helicopters.

The Peruvian forces in the Condor Mountain Range reportedly number about 5,000, while the Ecuadoran forces do not exceed 2,000, according to sources close to the Peruvian Army in that area.

The Peruvian Armed Forces Joint Command has its headquarters in Bagua and its airport is the center for supplies and for sending troops to the front lines.

President Alberto Fujimori today is visiting the military front, from Bagua, to see personally how the fighting is developing.

New units of the Peruvian special forces arrived in Bagua early today and were immediately taken by helicopters to the front lines to reinforce the Peruvian forces. Some of the elite forces have been transferred to the border region from Huanuco, Cajamarca, and Upper Huallga where they have been fighting the Shining Path terrorist gangs and drug traffickers for the last few years.

In the last four days, the Peruvian forces evicted the Ecuadoran forces from the Base Sur and Cueva de los Tayos posts with a high number of casualties, but this report was denied by the Ecuadoran Armed Forces.

There is no information on the casualties on the two sides in the last 48 hours, but according to reports from radio stations in Tumbes, at the border, the casualties are "high" and the clashes continue, many of them "hand-to-hand" combat.

Peruvian television today aired a report from a military hospital in Bagua showing the high number of Peruvian soldiers wounded in combat and reported that those with serious wounds were transferred to other towns. Sixteen doctors arrived in Bagua on 4 February to help the doctors who have been working since the clashes began.

The reports on casualties continue to be contradictory but unofficial Peruvian military sources said the casualties already exceed 200.

Today is the 11th day of the clashes. The first clash occurred on 26 January when an Ecuadoran armed helicopter attacked a Peruvian Army post near the Cenepa River, according to Lima. Combat is taking place in the Condor Mountain Range, which is a rough jungle region with high temperatures, torrential rains, and difficult access.

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Fujimori: Troops Advancing, Morale High, Tihuinza Area Retaken

PY0602151195 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 1210 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Impromptu news conference by President Alberto Fujimori to unidentified reporters upon his arrival in Bagua on 5 February—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, please briefly evaluate this conflict, 10 days after its start. [shouts, cheers]

[Fujimori] We should evaluate it from two standpoints: Diplomatic and military. On the diplomatic front, much progress has been made and the very fact that Ecuador has agreed to sit at a negotiating table with the guarantor countries represents remarkable progress. Several aspects of the conflict were discussed. We were about to reach agreement on the cessation of hostilities and on some additional measures, which included continuing the Rio de Janeiro Protocol process, but Ecuador unexpectedly refused to sign the agreement. I believe some relative progress was made on the diplomatic front, namely the fact that Ecuador has recognized the guarantor countries and that the Rio de Janeiro Protocol is valid.

[Reporter] What about the military front?

[Fujimori] On the military front, we have dislodged organized Ecuadoran troops from two major points: Cueva de los Tayos and Base Sur. We have surrounded Tihuinza. We have taken the main hills surrounding Tihuinza. I have just talked on the radio with the commander of these operations—Commander Ascona—who gave me his report at 1200. Our troops are advancing well, with high morale and high degree of training. We are hoping Tihuinza will be taken.

[Reporter] Could you give us some figures as to the number of deaths and wounded on both sides?

[Fujimori] I can give you figures on the Peruvian side, not on the Ecuadoran side, because they could deny my figures. But these casualties are very unfortunate on both sides. I consider Ecuadoran soldiers to be our brothers. Peru has sustained 22 casualties up to today.

[Reporter] How about the number of wounded personnel?

[Fujimori] The 22 casualties include the wounded.

[Reporter] If President Duran-Ballen continues to insist on his position, what position will the Peruvian Government take?

[Fujimori] We must exhaust every option, absolutely every option, so that the Peruvian borders may be fully guaranteed and respected. These options are available on both the diplomatic and military fronts. Peru has not used the type of propaganda used by Ecuador, but rather it is acting responsibly and firmly. In reality, that propaganda is misinforming the Ecuadoran people, who are being poorly informed of what is happening, of the true facts. Like in other conflicts in previous years, this one is being used as a smokescreen to distract attention from many Ecuadoran domestic issues and problems stemming from its economic crisis.

[Reporter] Some people are saying that, in one way or another, your silence and that of General Hermoza could be misinterpreted and might lead some to believe that we are not winning the conflict. What would you say about that?

[Fujimori] That is why I have invited you to go to the conflict area so that you may see for yourselves how things are going.

[Reporter] Does that mean that we are not losing the conflict?

[Fujimori] No, absolutely not. The people may rest fully assured that our soldiers are dislodging the Ecuadorans. It has not been an easy operation because of the rugged terrain, but we have advanced remarkably. We have good logistic support and well trained troops who are very capable and well prepared to act in this type of terrain.

Fujimori Departs for Lima

PY0502214395 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Telephone relay by "special correspondent" Jorge Fernandez Sanchez from Jaen]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Peruvian Army has surrounded Tihuinza and has taken the main hills around it. President Alberto Fujimori talked with Commander Ascona, who is heading the attack. The report says that the morale of the troops is high. President Fujimori made the announcement a few minutes ago here in Jaen, saying: We hope that the post has fallen by now. Here is the recording:

[Begin Fujimori recording, in progress] [words indistinct] surrounding Tihuinza. I just talked on the radio with the commander heading the operations Commander Ascona, [words indistinct]. We hope that post has fallen. [end recording]

This is the latest information given by the president himself who just left for Lima. President Fujimori stayed for a few minutes in Jaen after getting off the Army helicopter E-644 in the garden of the Health Ministry hospital in this town.

San Ignacio Reportedly Calm; Troops Continue To Arrive

PA0602032595 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Report by Jorge Fernandez Sanchez in San Ignacio, Cajamarca Province; from the "Newspaper of the Airwaves" newscast]

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[FBIS Translated Text] In this locality, as well as in the rest of the country, there is anticipation about the advance of Peruvian troops in the operation against the post of Tihuinza given that at 1500 the president reported that the highest hills had been taken and that the place had been surrounded. This is according to the last report received at midday, in which the president expected that at that time, while he was reporting, the operation might have been already carried out. This would mean a victory of Peruvian troops by completing the dislodgement of the invaders. The president arrived in Jaen on board helicopter 644 of the Peruvian Army, accompanied by General Nicolas Hermoza Rios. The president said that Peruvian casualties total 22, including dead and wounded soldiers.

We will report back at any moment because there is total calm in this location. Troops continue to board the barge and everything is calm up to now. There is anticipation.

Fujimori: World Community 'Misinformed' by Ecuador

PA0602065595 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0228 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori today accused the Ecuadoran Government of seeking to divert public attention from the political, economic, and social problems Ecuador is currently confronting.

"The Ecuadoran people, as well as the international community, are being misinformed (by the Quito authorities). There is no reason why (the Ecuadoreans) should degrade and invade our territory," the president said.

At a press conference following his return from the conflict zone along the border, Fujimori reiterated the Peruvian Government's willingness to sign a peace agreement that will entail the withdrawal of both sides from their current positions.

According to Fujimori, the Ecuadoran Government has schemed to make Peru look bad. Nevertheless, he added, "we will negotiate by strictly adhering to the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, the only mechanism duly recognized to settle such disputes."

Fujimori stressed: "We are deeply astonished that after Ecuador recognized the validity of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, it decided to attack us. This means that there are some sectors that are not interested in seeing this problem resolved."

Meanwhile, Peruvian Congressman Oswaldo Sandoval argued that Ecuador's intention to undertake economic reforms similar to those implemented by other Latin American countries would prompt a clash between the opposition in Congress and the Armed Forces.

Peruvian analysts claim that the Ecuadoran Army may have instigated the conflict because of proposals to sell off state-owned enterprises, as well as because of planned reforms to the Armed Forces budget, which is funded heavily through crude oil revenues.

Sandoval, president of the National Congress Foreign Relations Commission, indicated that Ecuador is the country that has procrastinated most in implementing structural changes, especially in terms of privatizing the state-owned businesses.

Fujimori Meets Media Directors, Talks About Conflict

PY0402202095 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At noon today Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori held a meeting with the directors of the main sectors of the Peruvian media.

According to Augusto Bresani, director of a local newspaper, if Ecuador does not accept the guarantor countries' proposal this afternoon it runs the risk of being sanctioned at an international level. Bresani said that during the meeting with the chief of state they were informed about the progress of Peru's diplomatic and military efforts to solve the border conflict.

Further on Meeting

PY0502000595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lima, 4 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori today disclosed that Peru has asked the Rio de Janeiro Protocol guarantor countries to see that the treaty is respected rather than act as mediators in its conflict with Ecuador.

The chief of state said, during a meeting with the directors of local newspapers, that he has urged the guarantor countries (Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and the United States) to "assume the responsibility they have within the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol."

Fujimori also disclosed that he had phoned his counterparts Carlos Menem (Argentina), Fernando Cardoso (Brazil), Ernesto Samper (Colombia), and Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada (Bolivia), and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, to inform them about the Peruvian stance.

Fujimori added that if the peace-seeking negotiations being held in Brazil fail, the conflict will be handed over to the OAS foreign ministers, but "with a ruling from the guarantors."

Fujimori held Ecuador responsible for the slight progress made in the negotiations, particularly because of that country's objections to the Peruvian proposal to demilitarize the conflict zone.

Peruvian daily ONDA director Augusto Bresani said that diplomatic sources he had consulted said that if Ecuador "insists on objecting to the demilitarization of the conflict zone, it may be sanctioned by the OAS."

Bresani also disclosed that during the meeting with Fujimori they raised the issue of the alleged sale of weapons to Ecuador by Chile, a guarantor country of the

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protocol, and said that "although the president avoided discussing the subject he looked very worried."

In the meantime, peace-seeking talks continue to develop very slowly in Rio de Janeiro and it has been leaked that there is a four-point draft agreement and that disagreements refer to only one of the points on the demilitarization and participation of the guarantors.

Brazilian spokesman Antonio Simoes, in the only official declaration issued today, said that "greater progress" was made today but that the process is slow "because a lot of patience is necessary to reach a point of equilibrium." [passage omitted]

Chile Allegedly Selling Weapons to Ecuador

PY0402195795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1625 GMT 4 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lima, 4 Feb (EFE)—As the fighting continues on the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border, the Peruvian media are reporting that Chile, one of the guarantor countries negotiating peace in Rio de Janeiro, is selling weapons to Ecuador.

According to the reports published today by some Lima dailies, during the past few days the Peruvian Army managed to balance its military forces with those deployed by Ecuador in the Condor mountain range where the fighting is going on.

The Peruvian forces are now concentrating on the Ecuadoran military base Tihuinza which, according to Army Commander General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza on Thursday, 2 February, is the only one that remains to be dislodged for Peruvian territory to be free of the presence of Ecuadoran soldiers. [passage omitted]

Troops continue to arrive in Bagua, a town 80 km from the Condor mountain range, where the main headquarters of the military operations is located. Another 400 soldiers have been taken by plane to the zone.

Moreover, the opposition daily LA REPUBLICA today reports that despite the fact that Chile is a guarantor of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which in 1942 established the borderline between Peru and Ecuador, it sells weapons to Ecuador. The daily cites Peruvian Intelligence Service sources and states that Ecuadoran "Hercules" transport aircraft went to military bases in northern Chile to pick up the weapons acquired from Chile.

According to the report, on Wednesday, 1 February, Ecuadoran "Hercules" aircraft presumably landed at the Chilean military base "El Condor" in Iquique city. The Ecuadoran aircraft, according to LA REPUBLICA, flew over Colombian, Brazilian, and Bolivian territory to reach Chile and refuled in Rio Branco, Brazil. The report adds that the Ecuadoran aircraft followed the same itinerary on Thursday, 2 February.

The Cardoen factory, which sold weapons to Iraq during the Gulf War and makes "fragmentation" bombs allegedly acquired by Ecuador, is in Iquique.

In the five flights made by the "Hercules" aircraft, Ecuador may have acquired 75 metric tons of weapons. On Friday, 3 February, EL COMERCIO reported that Ecuador asked several countries for weapons, especially ammunition.

In the meantime in Peru, civilians are holding rallies of support for the government and the Armed Forces but also requesting peace.

In Tumbes, on the border with Ecuador, Radio Programas del Peru today disclosed that prices of staples such as oil, rice, potatoes, and others have increased by up to 50 percent.

The inhabitants of Tumbes were also very shocked by the death of a civilian who stepped on a mined field on Friday when he entered an urban zone in Ecuadoran territory.

Fujimori Calls Weapons Sale to Ecuador Private Business

PA0502163695 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1507 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 5 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said today the sale of weapons by Chile to Ecuador, during the conflict between Ecuador and Peru, is business between private companies and is not an affair of the Chilean Government.

Peruvian media reported on 3 February the Ecuadoran Armed Forces bought ammunition and "cluster" bombs from a weapons factory in the Chilean port of Iqueque last week.

The commercial operation was interpreted by certain local newspapers and politicians as proof of Chilean enmity and reopened old wounds on the Peruvian side left by the Pacific War (1879-1881), which put the two countries in combat.

Fujimori said in a meeting with the most important Peruvian news media, however, that neither the Chilean state nor the Chilean Government was responsible for the weapons sale but, rather, that a private company was responsible.

The Peruvian-Ecuadoran conflict is 11 days old today, and an impartial tally of the number of victims was not available yet.

A diplomatic source in Lima unofficially reported there is a total of 200 deaths in the two armies, including the dead, wounded, and missing.

Foreign Ministry Refutes Ecuadoran Communique on Fujimori Speech

PY0402024895 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0203 GMT 4 Feb 95

["Text" of Peruvian Foreign Ministry press statement]

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[FBIS Translated Text] In view of an Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry communique referring to a message to the nation delivered by the president of the Republic of Peru, the Foreign Ministry is compelled to clarify the following:

1. There can be no talk of peace before international public opinion while at the same time attacking and killing innocent people.

2. The goal of a definitive solution that will ensure the peace and tranquility of our two countries cannot be achieved through aggression and lies.

3. Over 40 hours have elapsed since Ecuador announced its acceptance of the cease-fire proposed by the guarantor countries. This cease-fire had been previously accepted by Peru. The Peruvian Government did not want to establish any date or time for the start of the cease-fire.

4. In his message, the Peruvian president speaks of a definitive and lasting solution but at no time does he talk about a peaceful solution.

5. There are no Ecuadoran troops in Peruvian territory. To state otherwise would be a distortion of the truth.

6. Ecuador insists on a cease-fire and upholding the status quo in the area with the participation of civilian and military observers from the four guarantor countries.

[Signed] Foreign Ministry Press Department Directorate

[Dated] Lima, 2 February 1995

Navy Denies Ship Deployment Offshore From Guayaquil

PY0302212495 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2035 GMT 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 3 Feb (EFE)—The Peruvian Navy today denied a report from Tumbes, at the Ecuadoran border, that several Navy ships have sailed to international waters offshore from the Ecuadoran port of Guayaquil. Rear Admiral Rene Chiappo Tellez, director of the Navy Information Department, told EFE: "I categorically deny that Peruvian Navy units have crossed the border."

According to reports from Tumbes, which were published by the Lima press, part of the Peruvian Navy was deployed a few days ago to northern Peruvian waters to wait for instructions. The ships were reportedly in international waters awaiting the possible escalation of military actions between Peru and Ecuador but this report was denied by Adm Chiappo Tellez.

Air Force Takes Control of 5 Airports Near Border

PA0502051595 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Feb 95

[Report by Mauricio Fernandi; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 2224 [0324 GMT], we were able to get within a half a kilometer of the Tumbes airport. As was reported, the Joint Command of the Armed Forces and CORPAC [expansion unknown] agreed to close this airport and four others in the country's northern region, which serve Chiclayo, Piura, and Tanara. We are standing half a kilometer away from the airport, because the Peruvian Air Force [FAP] has taken complete control of the Tumbes Airport and journalists are not allowed in or to film it. Today at 1600 hours, we were able to enter the airport, and here are these clips. These are Faucett Airline passengers who were not able to fly to Lima because of the aforementioned measure. We were also going to take this flight, but at approximately 1530 hours, a CORPAC official approached the 120 passengers and announced the measure. There were many tourists among them who were coming from the beach hotels in the north and a foreign reporters. A FAP lieutenant who declined to be identified affirmed the measure was taken because as of 1430 hours, Peruvian troops would be pushing out Ecuadorans who are in the Tiwinza and Cueva de los Tayos zone. Approximately 20 minutes ago, Ecuavisa carried a report in which the Ecuadoran Air Force confirmed the lieutenant's announcement.

Transportation Workers To Buy War Bonds

PA0502052295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 4 Feb (EFE)— Peru's largest union of public transportation workers today agreed to voluntarily buy "war bonds" to support the Peruvian forces fighting on the border with Ecuador.

A meeting of the Association of Peru's Transportation Enterprises [Asociacion de Empresas de Transporte de Peru—ASETUP] decided, unanimously, that each of its members will buy at least one $5 bond "to suport our Armed Forces that are fighting for the country's sovereignty."

"ASETUP's" decision is the first of its kind in Peru, where a border conflict began with Ecuador 10 days ago.

Simultaneously, other social and popular organizations announced that in the next few days they will stage marches in support of the government's military and political actions.

When the conflict began, Peruvians reacted calmly, but now the climate of belligerence seems to be increasing, exacerbated by anti-Peruvian demonstrations shown on Ecuadoran television.

There are places in Peru where Ecuadoran flags have been burned and where Ecuadorans are insulted indiscriminately, but in most cases, the wish for peace and the rejection of war have prevailed.

Ecuadoran Embassy officials, who sang religious hymns holding hands with Peruvian parishioners and wishing them peace, attended a mass held at Lima's Miraflores municipality today.

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